Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

U.S. Army Troops Reportedly Used in Atlanta

PA1060035 Havana International Service in Spanish 2312 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] U.S. Army assault troops stormed the Atlanta jail to subdue the 200 inmates of Cuban origin rioting in that Georgia penitentiary.

(Ivan Gilman), spokesman for the prison, said all of the rebelling prisoners surrendered but he did not say if the assault troops had to use their weapons to get them to do so. This group of inmates continued to rebel after 913 Cuban-born inmates surrendered on Friday and released the 89 hostages.

The prison riots took place at the Atlanta [Georgia] and Oakdale, Louisiana jails to demand that the U.S. Government call off its plans to deport these inmates, who demand the right to continue residing in the United States.

200 Inmates Remain in Atlanta

FL051334 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese visited yesterday the Atlanta prison where some 200 rebel Cuban-born inmates still remain. The detainees who surrendered yesterday were taken by bus to other U.S. prisons. They were handcuffed and shackled.

Meese visited the prison shortly after a 1,000-member FBI SWAT team and Army assault troops were ready to take over the prison and subdue the inmates. The situation of these detainees is still unknown because the press insisted on reporting interviews with the hostages who said they had been treated well by the prisoners.

Haitians Must Solve Own Internal Problems

PA1061731 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] As time passes, the international public has been receiving a better idea of the extent of the killings committed in Haiti on 29 November. This was a masacre that can be better referred to as a black Sunday.

One eyewitness who for justifiable security reasons refused to give her name watched Haitian soldiers murder 46 civilians kept at the Fort Dimanche prison near Port-au-Prince, the capital.

The 19-year old woman watched troops enter cells and fire at the prisoners without any hesitation; other prisoners were killed with bayonets.

The witness, who was an exception because her life was spared, also watched the transportation of civilians—some of whom were already dead—in trucks. This proves that in Haiti military trucks also serve as mobile morgues.

The murder of these 46 people was intended to teach a lesson to the citizens who allegedly participated in the civilian brigades, formed in opposition to the abuses carried out by uniformed men and the Ton-Ton Macoutes, who wished to obstruct the 29 November elections.

The Ton-Ton Macoutes, with an infamous history in that Caribbean country, are armed bands that, in collusion with the Army, terrorize opponents or anyone who disagrees with the regime's methods. Established by the Duvaliers and operating under the Government Council headed by Henri Namphy, the Ton-Ton Macoutes have just reaffirmed they remain impervious and are capable of playing the current regime's game to obstruct general elections.

Some international news agencies insisted that during Sunday's killings, the Army remained indifferent to the actions by pro-Duvalier gangs that machinegunned and, in many cases, butchered with machetes those who dared cast their ballots. This indifference is relative because the Armed Forces have close links with the Ton-Ton Macoutes and give them the opportunity to replenish or complete their arms and ammunition supplies, which they already have thanks to the protection of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier.

If one delves too deeply into the origin of this military equipment, one would have to point to the responsibility of the United States, the main arms supplier of the Haitian dictatorship during the long Duvalierist period, and, more recently, during the Namphy regime.

Therefore, the decision by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to cut off military aid to Haiti is at least ironic, because most of the aid for this year had already reached the military officers' hands.

Washington is worried about the Haitian incidents and is trying to prevent a people's uprising.

Last year, Washington took a step in that direction when it gave Jean-Claude Duvalier the means to quickly leave Port-au-Prince for Europe to enjoy his millions of stolen dollars.

Because of all this, statements by certain people that U.S. military intervention is the only solution to guarantee elections in Haiti are worrisome.

As the Cuban Foreign Ministry recently stated in a communique, it is up to the Haitian people alone, without any intervention, to solve their own grave internal problems.

Castro Meets With Indian Minister of State

FL052025 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, at the Palace of the Revolution. Mr Faleiro is paying an official, friendly visit to Cuba. The minister of state delivered President Castro a message from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in which he assesses the future development of bilateral relations and the most important aspects of the current international situation. President Castro expressed his appreciation for the message and [words indistinct] of the development of relations between our countries noting the progress made in cooperation in various spheres.

The meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship, [words indistinct] relations between Cuba and India, the agreement of positions of our states on the most important aspects of the current international situation, such as progress in the struggle for peace and disarmament. He underscored the important role played and efforts made in that field by the USSR and CPSU General Secretary Comrade Gorbachev. He also noted the need to intensify the struggle against the apartheid regime, the solidarity with front-line countries and liberation movements, as well as the support to the peace plan adopted in Guatemala by the Central American presidents. He welcomed the recent declaration of the eight Latin American countries; the Acapulco commitment for peace, development, and democracy.

Mrs A.G. Asrani, vice minister of state; (Maduhusudan Gonopati), private aide to the minister of state; Madhav Keshav Mangalmurti, Indian ambassador to our country; and Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, participated in the meeting.

Peruvian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

FL040328 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 87

[By Gisela Bel]

[Text] The people of Peru and Cuba strengthened their ties today when a group of parliamentarians arrived this afternoon in Havana. The delegation is headed by (Fernando Pil Codeza), president of the Health Commission of the National Congress of Peru. He explained the purpose of his visit to the press.

[Begin (Codeza) recording] There is much interest in Peru, especially among all the parliamentarians, in learning more about the sister Republic of Cuba. There are many aspects our parliamentarians would like to explore, such as the functions of Cuba's National Assembly and the advancements in agriculture and medicine. There is also interest in learning about the country and its citizens as a whole. [end recording]

The parliamentary delegation will be in Cuba until 9 December and they will visit the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, the genetic and biotechnology center, the Ernesto Che Guevara Central Pioneer Palace, and the Isle of Youth special municipality.

Meetings with the education minister, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and other government representatives are part of the activities planned for the delegation from the Peruvian National Congress.

Dominican Republic

Government Reopens Border With Haiti

PA041725 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1625 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 4 Dec (EFE)—The Government of the Dominican Republic today reopened its border with Haiti, which had been closed since Sunday, 29 November.

The information was announced by Lieutenant General Antonio Imbert Barreras, secretary of state of the Armed Forces, who said that President Joaquin Balaguer ordered the reopening of the border.

The secretary of state, however, explained that although the border on the Dominican side was reopened, the Haitian authorities have kept it closed on their side of the territory.

President Balaguer ordered the closing of the border last Sunday "for security reasons," following the bloody incidents which occurred in Port-au-Prince on election day.

Haiti

Episcopal Conference Views CNG Decision

PA041846 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 4 Dec (AFP)—The Haitian Episcopal Conference refused today to send a new representative to the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), dissolved on Sunday by the National Government Council (CNG) in a bid to reorganize it to hold new elections.

After a lengthy meeting, the bishops decided the CNG decision to dismiss the CEP members, following the massacres that caused the suspension of last Sunday's elections, was "unconstitutional."

The powerful Episcopal Conference also harshly condemned the "indecent crimes" committed in the past few days "with the complicity of the law enforcement forces."

The Conference reiterated its solidarity with the Haitian people "in their struggle for a true democracy."

Msgr Romelus Comments

FL042145 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Comment by Msgr Willy Romelus; date and place not given—live or recorded—monitored in progress]

[Text]...normal (?development) of the electoral process. This is the first time we see private residences, presbyteries, and churches shot at, generally, and the lives and property of citizens imperiled in Haiti. This is the first time we see in Haiti armed civilians steal ballots on public roads and even from inside electoral offices with the complicity of the security forces. This is the first time we see in Haiti the shooting of peaceable citizens enthusiastically waiting to fulfill their civic duty. This is the first time we see foreign journalists fired at point blank in Haiti. One of them was killed and others were wounded.

All these activities occurred despite the communique that forbade the carrying of firearms, which was reserved exclusively for the members of the Armed Forces, and promised to provide security during the electoral operations.

The Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] expresses its strongest censure of these acts of violence, which are absolutely shameful for a country that claims to be a civilized nation. It vigorously condemns these foul crimes committed against defenseless people in contempt of respect for the most basic human rights and dignity. It also condemns the unfair treatment given the members of the CEP and contests the unconstitutional decision to abrogate the decree of 10 August 1987 promulgating the Electoral Law of 29 July 1987.

The CEH also condemns setting fire to vehicles, houses, service stations, and offices; disabling of certain development structures; sabotage of radio stations; and arbitrary arrest of youths in several sections of Port-au-Prince and in certain provincial towns.

The CEH renews its...

[Announcer, interrupts] That was an excerpt of the statement by the bishops of Haiti on the bloody incidents that occurred at the end of November. Msgr Romelus, bishop of Jeremie, told us that the Catholic Church will not send a representative to the CEP:

[Begin recording] [Romelus, speaking in Creole] The CEH received a note from the National Government Council [CNG] asking it to replace its representative to the CEP. The CEH's answer is a negative one. The answer is no—we cannot replace the person we sent to represent us within the CEP.

[Announcer, in Creole] Mgsr Romelus, after everything that happened and led to the cancellation of the 29 November elections and the removal of the CEP members, how do you feel about the future of democracy in Haiti?

[Romelus] The people leading the country think they have really reached a point where they can put a stop to democracy in Haiti. But I think that, for our part—the Haitian people and all those who are committed with it—we have to get together in order to counter what those people want to do. If you examine the situation carefully, you will see there is a tripartite force that has come together against the people, who are alone and have no weapons. But victory belongs to the people. The people must continue forward steadfastly. The people must not feel discouraged, because, as you know, in struggles you will lose a few, but you will win a few too. Losing a battle does not mean that you will necessarily lose the war. We have to fight.

[Announcer] And what do you think will happen in the near future?

[Romelus] As we just said, we don't have an armed force with us but we have other weapons. We must count on those weapons, spiritual weapons. This doesn't mean we should just sit back, cross our arms, and wait for it. We have to do all we can. Otherwise they are going to massacre us. We have to fight.

[Announcer] So you are very optimistic?

[Romelus] I am very optimistic, and I think there is much that is positive in what happened Sunday. What is positive is that if things had been done honestly Sunday, their position would have been strengthened. The values would have been victorious. And everyone would have believed, both at home and abroad, that there really was some good faith. This way, they showed the world that they had to be of bad faith. [end recording]

[Announcer, in French] Thank you Mgsr Romelus. Mgsr Romelus, bishop of Jeremie, says he is optimistic the Haitian people will ultimately be victorious in its struggle for democracy.

The human rights organizations in Haiti yesterday refused to designate another representative to replace the one removed last Sunday by the CNG, saying no authority is empowered by the Constitution to put an end to the mandate of the person the organizations designated as their representative to the CEP.

We cannot be asked to sanction this arbitrary and illegal decree, nor the unspeakable massacre that preceded it, says the communique from the human rights organizations in Haiti.

The Association of Haitian Journalists [AJH] will not have a representative on the new CEP either. It writes: The AJH, faithful to the Constitution, is unable to endorse any decree that goes against the Constitution by virtue of the specific mandate of the CEP, the legitimacy and duration of which no authority is empowered to alter.

The AJH, which shares the sorrow of the families of some 100 Haitians who died at the polls, and which itself has some victims among the press—one death and several persons injured—acknowledges the CEP as being legally empowered to organize elections in Haiti, in order to put an end to arbitrariness. This is provided for by the Constitution.

Talks To Form New Electoral Council Resume

FL042056 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The government last night announced that it has resumed talks with the different organizations designated by the Constitution to choose the members of the Provisional Electoral Council. A government communique announced that the talks began Monday and were to continue today at the National Palace.

The National Government Council has also announced the formation of a special investigating committee made up of civilians and members of the Armed Forces to shed light on last Sunday's events.

UNDCH Postpones General Strike Until 7 Dec

FL041737 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Union of Haitian Christian Democratic Nationalists [UNDCH], which includes the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] and the UPN [Union of Nationalistic Patriots], had called for a general strike of unlimited duration to begin this morning if the National Government Council [CNG] failed to leave power.

This strike has now been postponed until Monday [7 December].

In a news conference yesterday morning, the UNDCH proposed that the CNG be replaced by a 7-member civilian-military government. At the same news conference, the UNDCH members directly implicated the current government in last Sunday's massacres. [passage omitted]

PDCH leader Sylvio Claude also harshly criticized the reception certain political leaders gave his statement calling for intervention by a multinational force in Haiti. Pastor Claude explained: I never called for a military intervention in Haiti. It is above all a matter of sending a multinational United Nations or OAS observer force to guarantee the security of the citizenry and the proper election process, he concluded.

Rockefeller Guerre, leader of the UPN, demanded that the CNG step down and announced that he was temporarily withdrawing his candidacy to the Senate.

Private Sector Calls Strike

FL041730 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The Association of Private Sector Employees has called on all government employees [as heard], with the exception of hospital and dispensary staff members, to begin an indefinite strike as of Monday 7 December, with a view to paralyzing the government bureaucracy.

Associations of industrialists and merchants—ADIH [Haitian Manufacturers Association], AHTH [Haitian Hotel and Tourist Industry Association], Hamcham [Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry], Anadipp [National Association of Distributors of Petroleum Products], etc—are also asked to support the people's demands through whatever means they may deem effective.

The association asks friendly countries—the FRG, France, Canada, Israel, and Japan—to follow the United States' example and cut off military, economic, and technical aid to the National Government Council [CNG] and to leave to the Haitians the solution to their political crisis.

In conclusion, the Association of Private Sector Employees asks all professionals, union, and human rights associations to abstain from any and all collaboration with the CNG with a view to the organization of any elections under the military.

CATH, Union Join Strike

FL051824 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers [CATH] last night called for a strike of unlimited duration starting Monday, 7 December, until the civilian-military National Government Council [CNG] leaves power.

CATH, which vigorously protests the death of 46 young people, who it claims have been killed by the authorities at the military prison of Fort Dimanche, also expresses its support for the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], the members of which were removed Sunday by the CNG. The CATH believes that this CEP is capable of organizing free and honest elections.

For its part, the drivers union for the metropolitan area has also said it will adhere to the CATH's call for a strike next Monday.

PUCH Supports Monday Strike

PA061602 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 87

["Excerpt" From an interview with Rene Theodore, secretary general of the United Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH; date and place not given—recorded in French fading into Spanish trasnslation]

[Text] [Theodore] The PUCH supports the call for a general strike scheduled for Monday in Haiti. However, at the same time, we continue to advocate that all political parties and all presidential candidates meet on Monday and Tuesday to jointly find a solution to the country's political crisis that began on Sunday with the intervention of the Ton-Ton Macoutes and the Duvalierist army sectors, which interrupted the electoral process.

We think that it is important to find a solution or a formula to replace the National Government Council in order to continue to promote the country's democratic process.

At the same time, we address the Haitian Armed Forces, the patriotic soldiers and workers, and all those who understand the military honor inherent in a situation like this. We ask them to protect the people and to refuse to participate in any act of vandalism or massacre of civilians during the strike announced for Monday.

MIDH, FNC Call 2-Day Strike

FL051832 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] and the National Concerted Action Front [FNC] ask political parties and groups, union organizations, drivers of public transportation vehicles, peasant organizations, associations of industrialists and merchants, public and private sector employees and employees of the assembly industry and the airport, religious and socio-professional organizations—indeed, all patriots who want a change—to participate in a general, nationwide strike on Monday, 6, and Tuesday, 7 December [dates as heard], to demand: the withdrawal of the arbitrary decree of 29 November 1987; the arrest of all the perpetrators of the atrocious, criminal acts against the Provisional Electoral Council, Haitian families, foreign citizens, and national honor; the release of all the members of the vigilance brigades; and the return of all the bodies of the victims of 29 November to their families.

PAIN's Dejoie Calls for CNG To Withdraw

PA051839 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 5 Dec (AFP)—Louis Dejoie, one of the most popular Haitian leaders, today asked the Army to replace the current ruling National Government Council (CNG) headed by General Henri Namphy.

During a news conference, Dejoie, president of the National Industrial and Agricultural Party (PAIN), asked the CNG members to "withdraw immediately," and exhorted the people to "general protest and passive resistance" if the CNG refuses to withdaw.

He also called on the people to carry out a general strike starting on Monday, joining the strike convocation launched by the Autonomos Haitian Workers Federation (CATH) and the Haitian Christian Democratic Party (PDCH).

Candidate Latortue on Current Situation

FL041749 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Francois Latortue, leader and presidential candidate of the Modelh-PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti-Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti], has deplored last Sunday's incidents and declared that a Haitian solution to the crisis must be found. Latortue called on the nation's political circles to think to find a solution to the crisis situation prevailing in the country.

Latortue believes far more direct participation by the political parties is required to resume electoral activity in Haiti.

CATH-CLAT Reports Damages, Incidents, Deaths

FL051933 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] In a news release dated 3 December 1987, the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Workers Central [CATH-CLAT] drew up a list of the physical damage to its headquarters and mortalities on the night of 28 November 1987. CATH-CLAT said its headquarters was attacked by some 10 civilians armed with automatic weapons.

Elsewhere, the CATH-CLAT news release says another armed group set fire to the headquarters of the Federation of Syndicated Workers causing much material damage. The next morning, a brown Datsun car, with license plate number G-8784 carrying several armed civilians, shot at the CATH-CLAT headquarters. Several windows were shattered. Pierre Charles Chery, a CATH-CLAT member, was felled by bullets.

Roy Notes Violations of Constitution

FL051902 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] In a communique dated 3 December 1987, Dr Louis E. Roy, president of the Association for the Defense of the Constitution, says the removal of the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] by the government is unconstitutional, laden with consequences, and not in keeping with either the letter or spirit of the Constitution. The Constitution states the CEP is

an independent body whose members are designated by certain specific institutions and their mandate is of a specific duration, by virtue of Article 289.3. This means that the CEP's mission ends as soon as an elected president takes office.

Roy also said that Article 289.2 states if one of the corps or organizations abstains, the executive will fill the vacancy. He also speaks of Sunday's deaths which everyone knows about. He says this violates Articles 19 and 29 of the Constitution, which deals with the government's responsibility to guarantee the right to life, (?respect for human rights), and freedom of opinion.

Further on in his communique, Dr Roy speaks of the attitude of the authorities concerned regarding a number of criminal acts against the CEP headquarters and Departmental Electoral Offices [BEDs], Communal Electoral Offices [BECs], and polling stations that occurred both in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere, according to a report the Haitian Armed Forces gave the National Government Council. He also speaks of the number of armed groups that stopped vehicles transporting election materials and destroyed them. He says all these things constitute violations of Article 269.1 of the Constitution, which makes of the police an armed force whose duty is to guarantee public order and protect the lives and property of the citizens and Article 266, which orders the Army to work with the police, at the request of the executive power, should the police be unable to handle the job.

Dr Roy reminds the executive branch that the Army solemnly swore to respect the Constitution and he also reminds the Haitian people that it ratified the Constitution through a massive vote and that it is now the people's duty to watch to see this Constitution is respected.

Dr Roy calls for a general mobilization for the defense of the Constitution by all—citizens, organizations, and so forth—whose watchword is to respect and ensure respect for the Constitution of 1987.

Port-de-Paix Under Military Guard on 4 Dec

FL051947 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1406 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The town of Port-de-Paix [the major town in northeastern Haiti], which was being guarded by military yesterday, is no longer under military guard. This morning, our correspondent Michel Edouard did not see soldiers in the streets.

The police authorities have not as yet said anything about why there was such a strong military presence in the streets of Port-de-Paix.

PPS Proposes Forming Common Political Front

PA070300 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 1 Dec 87 p 8

[Article by Roberto Santiago]

[Text] Mexico is currently facing one of the most critical moments in its history. It is beset by foreign pressures, the enormous weight of the foreign debt, injustices, and backwardness. Its people are brutally impoverished. Their individual and social guarantees have been sacrificed for the sake of dependence on imperialism and agreements reached with international banking centers. The Mexican Government, by straying from the revolutionary process, has abandoned the constitutional programs.

This was the general outline of the proposed platform of the "patriotic and democratic forces" signed by the Popular Socialist Party [PPS], and the "democratization faction," and which was revealed to this newspapaer by Jorge Cruickshank Garcia, Secretary General of the PPS national leadership.

The document states that, overall, government action has been so backward and antipatriotic that it has interrupted the process of national integration and has fostered the resulting incorporation to the U.S. market. This incoporation has severely harmed national industry, causing a drop in the price of Mexican labor that has provoked an indiscriminate opening to foreign investment.

According to the document Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the PRI presidential candidate, "imposed by the executive, is mainly responsible for the disastrous economic policy that has greatly harmed the masses and has undermined the foundations of national sovereignty. His nomination is aimed at launching an attack against our political power by a group basically contrary to the Mexican Revolution's ideals."

The proposed platform is really a call to political parties to join the struggle to form a great national front for the 1988 national elections.

The document outlines the viewpoints on the current situation expressed by the groups that signed the document. It states that the right to strike is systematically violated now, as are constitutional decrees on wages, and the right to health benefits, employment, and housing. It states that political and human rights have been restricted by an increasing authoritarianism and the institutionalization of electoral fraud.

The document also strongly questions the government's political and social policies during the last 5 years, because it has unrestrictedly dismantled the offical organizations with the ensuing undermining of our national sovereignty's material foundations. It has fostered the denationalization of our productive system and has decreased Mexicans' consumer capacity, as well as our domestic market. Mexicans' job availability and their hopes for a dignified existence have also decreased.

The document states that because of the government's stubbornness in paying at all costs an unpayable debt, our economic growth and people's welfare have been curtailed. During these 6 years, Mexican workers have lost more than half their buying power. Meanwhile, a small sector has multiplied its wealth with the corresponding deepening of the social imbalances that have already reached unacceptable levels.

In view of this situation, we must form a common front to mobilize and organize millions of Mexicans to recover the dignity due them as citizens, and to prevent the counterrevolutionary groups from continuing in power. This common front should group together peasants, city workers, the middle class, young people, women, and all patriotic Mexicans who want to struggle for a nationalist and populist government in which they will have a decisive participation in the political and economic affairs of the nation.

All those who join the proposed platform, as part of a democratic and patriotic front that will jointly present candidates for the posts up for election next year, will struggle for the following commitments:

The establishment of a nationalist and democratic government supported by the people and comprised of representatives of all the workers and middle class, intellectuals, and professionals. Only reactionary groups and corrupt officials will be excluded from this government.

Only with a government created in this way can we guarantee the country's genuine democratization and create conditions for material development, the rise to power of majority groups, and the boosting of a program of economic recovery and independent life for which Mexicans have struggled throughout the centuries.

To achieve these objectives, we must first guarantee unrestricted support for the people's will in the elections, and implement the legal and political reforms needed to promote electoral participation and guarantee the honesty of the voting.

We must strengthen the separation of the branches by increasing the powers of the legislative branch, expand the system of proportional representation in the Chamber of Deputies, and extend it to the Senate and local legislatures and municipalities, so political parties will be represented according to their electoral strength.

PMS Candidate Attacks PRI Economic Policies

P 1052202 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 30 Nov 87 p 4

[Article by Scott Lind]

[Text] The governing party's "economic medicine" has failed to free Mexico from economic crisis and promises only "more of the same" for deprived workers, said Heberto Castillo, Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) presidential candidate.

Castillo, speaking Sunday at the conclusion of PMS'S five-day National Congress, said PMS has a "distinct" medicine which includes suspending payments on the foreign debt and debt renegotiation.

That medicine also includes increasing workers' real wages so consumption patterns and productivity rise, investing more in agriculture, and immediately distributing 10 million hectares of land to landless campesinos so they can begin producing, Castillo said.

"We are prepared to govern," Castillo said, characterizing PMS' economic agenda as forward-looking and that of the National Action Party (PAN) as one favoring a bygone age of neo-liberalism.

During his acceptance speech, Castillo called for a public debate between all presidential candidates, from which "alternatives (to) the great problems of the country" can be explored.

"We are in favor of the electoral contest," Castillo said. "We must go to the people's marketplace with concrete ideas that can offer solutions to today's problems"

The governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) "proposes more of the same. The medicine the government has applied in recent years...does not serve in finding a way out of economic crisis," he said.

"We must say that the alternative of PRI has been to satisfy the demands of the great empresarios. The consequences are poor campesinos and workers, poor employees, colonial residents, women (and) children," Castillo said.

Meanwhile, the parties supporting Cuauhtemoc Cardenas "have a small following," he said.

Castillo said PMS' opposition has incorrectly painted the party as "setting forth violence as an alternative."

PMS is concerned that Mexico is pumping 1.3 million barrels of oil each day to the exterior, with oil profits paying only the interest on Mexico's large foreign debt, he said.

Payment of the interest on Mexico's foreign debt is also "expropriating the salary of workers by 50 percent," he said.

Meanwhile, some campesinos have been waiting "34 years" for land guaranteed them by the constitution, Castillo said.

PMS will seek a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women's equal rights, he said.

The lack of balance in power between the three branches of government must be rectified, Castillo said, and the power of the presidency reduced.

Intellectuals and journalists have the right of expression in Mexico, Castillo said, condemning recent "assassinations" of reporters in outlying states.

Concerning Mexico-U.S. relations, Castillo said both countries are "neighbors forever," and that relations between the two countries must be based on equality on political and economic issues.

As the people of the U.S. have the right to select their own governors, so do other nations, he said.

"We do not have anything against the U.S. people," Castillo said, stating, "We have great sympathy and love for all the countries' peoples. We are struggling so that the U.S. understands we are neighbors forever, nothing cosmic but of the earth."

Castillo's address tracked PMS's electoral platform which calls for equal relations between the two countries; supports U.S. investment while protecting essential national industry; and recommends greater touristic ties while reducing industry "commercialization."

The PMS platform also asks for abrogation of the U.S. Simpson-Rodino immigration law.

Castillo's address followed a general assembly vote ratifying the party majority's decision to strengthen his campaign rather than continue efforts at achieving a joint center-left candidacy.

Two resolutions offered for consideration both characterized Castillo as the best choice for society as a whole. The second one, though, also called for renewing unitary candidacy efforts.

A total of 1,010 voting delegates voted in favor of Castillo's campaign while 282 delegates voted to continue center-left unitary candidacy efforts.

Following the Castillo confidence vote, delegate Eraclio Zepeda of Chihuahua, a former supporter of PMS pre-candidate Antonio Becerra and supporter of continued efforts for center-left unity, declared Castillo the entire party's candidate and expressed support for "different forms of thought" within the party.

Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, PMS secretary general, then urged party unity as PMS members return home and gear up for Castillo's presidential campaign.

Briefs

Coffee Export Statistics

Mario Alberto Zubieta, director of the Mexican Coffee Institute, has reported that 1986-87 was "very bad" for the national coffee producers, adding that Mexico failed to receive approximately $300 million as a result of the drop of prices in the international market. Zubieta pointed out that coffee is the leading agricultural export product and ranks second—after petroleum—as a source of foreign currency for the country. [Summary] *[Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Nov 87 p 13 PA]*

Costa Rica

Arias Promises Austerity in Public Finances

PA041644 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Last night, on a television network, President Oscar Arias promised not to impose any new taxes during the remainder of his administration. The president said that efforts to control expenditures and to improve collection of overdue taxes will be intensified. Arias Sanchez noted that it is necessary to bear in mind that thanks to the taxpayers it is possible to build schools, roads, sports facilities, dining rooms in schools, sewers, housing for the needy, and many works demanded by our rural and urban communities.

Seeking to provide support to the private sector, credits were expanded this year by 23 percent, but this excessive expansion resulted in an increase in imports. President Arias said that the 1988 credit plan will include measures to benefit the agricultural and industrial sectors, seeking to encourage exports.

Arias stated that measures will be adopted to reduce importation of vehicles and to return to the 1986 import levels. Moreover, he said, people who altered documents for importing vehicles will be punished if their actions are proven in the investigations.

President Arias said production growth in 1987 will be approximately four percent as opposed to the two percent growth forecasted at the beginning of this year. Production has increased because we have returned faith and confidence to the Costa Rican people, and today more than ever the whole world wants to help us in our efforts to overcome poverty, Arias said. Furthermore, the president added, inflation and unemployment will decrease because the economy has developed normally.

Regarding public finances the president announced that 1988 will be a year of austerity. We have commitments to the international financial community, but we are particularly committed to the Costa Rican people to cautiously manage public finances. Arias Sanchez added that next year the parameters established by the authorities in charge of the budget will not be exceeded so that the state will not hinder the flow of resources that should be available to the private sector.

Assuring that he will continue giving attention to the appropriate mechanisms for a better distribution of the income—because the goal is not just increasing wealth but finding out the best way to distribute wealth—Arias said 1988 will be a year of hope and good prospects. He added that he believes 1988 will be a year of steady growth and of new opportunities for many of our businessmen and workers.

Arias appeared on television a few hours before leaving for Europe next Sunday. [sentence as heard] He will return before Christmas.

El Salvador

D'Aubuisson Rejects Duarte's Charges

PA060250 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), by Cesar Temes at the Canal Doce Television studios; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Temes] Major, what are your feelings now that you have been charged again—because of a statement by the president of the Republic—with masterminding Msgr Romero's assassination?

[D'Aubuisson] I have never felt so optimistic and calm. Perhaps I could tell the Christian Democratic Party's [PDC] president—because that man [President Duarte] is not the president of all Salvadorans, I did not vote for him—that I appreciate his blunder because, as I have said during these last 2 uncertain days, this matter will be settled once and for all, and, of course, I will show that I was not involved. Jose Napoleon Duarte will be seen as a clown by the international public for his blunder. [passage omitted]

[Temes] Major, what do you think about the political reintegration and presence in the country of [FDR leaders] Zamora and Ungo?

[D'Aubuisson] We discussed this issue during a previous interview. As I said then, I believe their presence is positive from the standpoint that they are joining a democratic process. In other words, if they want to present ideas, positions, and ideologies to the Salvadoran people they should do so within the democratic process, so that any Salvadoran who shares their views can vote for them. In other words, the positive aspect is that they are using this opportunity and process instead of trying to achieve power through violence. The negative aspect could be that they have not broken their ties with the rebels, with those who still...

[Temes, interrupting] With the FMLN.

[D'Aubuisson] Yes, with the FMLN, with the subversive criminals. It would be very difficult—and this is a new experience in our country; I think it would be the first time—for a political party to participate in democratic elections while having the support of an armed group. This is not common. In other words, it is not normal within a real democratic process.

[Temes] Would this be legal? In other words, would it be possible for a party to carry out both electoral and insurrrectional struggles at the same time? Could this happen? Is it possible?

[D'Aubuisson] It is possible. However, from the democratic standpoint that group would lose credibility in the democratic field. Why? Because the other political parties, with their own candidates, could be threatened by the subversives. In other words, the pure democratic concept would be lost. However, I hope this will not be the case and that they will convince their followers. It does not matter if they have leftist and communist ideas. If they promote those ideas through votes it is fine. Proof of our position is that in 1982 ARENA proposed to the Legislative Assembly that the FDR be legally recognized as a political party, so its leaders could not say they were not given any political openings. However, the other parties did not deem it convenient to approve ARENA's motion, which was defeated.

[Temes] What is your opinion about Mario Reni Roldan's [secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, PSD] statement that he has received threats? Also, what do you think of Ruben Zamora's reply to President Duarte, who said he was afraid of what could happen to Zamora, that Duarte's statement was like giving a license to anyone who wanted to kill Zamora. What are your views on this?

[D'Aubuisson] First of all, I regret what has happened with Reni Roldan. I know him personally—he is a good man. He firmly believes his ideologies and he is a decent man. If this has been happening to him, it is regrettable. On my behalf, and on behalf of my party, I pay my respects to Reni Roldan.

Regarding what Zamora said, Duarte is unpredictable. On the one hand he does the utmost to defend the Esquipulas II process, reconciliation, and amnesty, and on the other hand, now that the FDR leaders are here, he says they are in danger. I wonder if this is just a show put on by Duarte, since he has always maintained contacts with Ungo, or if this is a veiled threat because his American masters have told him the presence of these men is against U.S. interests. In any event, it reflects Duarte's way of thinking. He wants confrontation because what he has done to me is practically a threat, not exactly the same, but it is still a threat, just as he has threatened them. It would be good for the opposition political parties to meet with the FDR representatives, but not in the way they have asked us; ARENA will not be at the [24 November] meeting. We have asked them for a private meeting because there are some interesting points we would like to discuss with them.

[Temes] Regardless of the meeting the FDR representatives will hold tomorrow with opposition parties?

[D'Aubuisson] No.

[Temes] Will you meet afterwards?

[D'Aubuisson] Exactly. We want to meet in private with them. First, we must always act within the Constitution. Also, if we are going to participate in a democratic process—for which ARENA members have been preparing ourselves like no other party, we have been getting ready for this democratic process because we believe in the democratic process—we must respect each other's integrity. They should be able to carry out their political campaign with confidence, and so should we. Of course, we would not be at ease if we had a meeting of this type with PDC leaders because they quarrel and fight among themselves during their conventions...

[Temes, interrupting] No other opposition parties? Only ARENA representatives meeting with Ungo and Zamora?

[D'Aubuisson] I believe so, according to what we have tentatively arranged with PSD representatives. However, I understand this FDR group, which now belongs to the PSD, has invited the other opposition parties to a meeting tomorrow, which will be followed by a social gathering; I do not know if the opposition parties will attend. However, ARENA cannot attend because we will have a very busy day tomorrow in view of the grave threat that Duarte has made against my party in an attempt to eliminate ARENA from the political scene. Poor guy, he is stupid if he thinks he can do that with this new maneuver. He is absolutely mistaken.

[Temes] I will now ask you a question that you will answer when we return with the second part of this interview, right after a few advertisements. How do you view the country's current situation in relation to the Esquipulas agreements? Do you think following the meetings at the nunciature and the Esquipulas agreements we have made progress toward achieving peace, or do you think we have reached a deadlock, or that we have moved backwards? May we have your personal and your party's views in this regard? [passage omitted]

[D'Aubuisson] That is a very interesting question. It is difficult to answer in a few words. The Esquipulas II process in El Salvador under Duarte has really failed. Duarte even deviated from the concepts established in those agreements, which caused a very negative international reaction. Duarte initially said the Esquipulas II agreement had to be ratified and he presented it to the Legislative Assembly. Then they found out that it was not necessary to ratify it, and the Assembly simply supported the document. After that he said he wanted to go beyond the agreements and, deviating from the Esquipulas II agreement, he proposed an amnesty that made no sense and is so complicated that Duarte has only committed himself further and made himself look ridiculous internationally. Proof of this is that his own masters—the United States—protested this amnesty deal.

This debacle faced by Duarte is the possible reason why Msgr Romero's case was brought to light again, because it has received international publicity. Esquipulas II has been set aside, and it is now said that the great Duarte, assuming the role of policeman, investigator, judge, and everything else, was able to clear up the case and has already condemned me, as the trial is just beginning. I think the presence of the FDR leaders has helped to consolidate and give some credibility to the Esquipulas II process here in El Salvador. As you know, the opposition parties finally withdrew from the National Reconciliation Commission, which made Duarte very angry. Maybe that is why he wants to get even with me, because the last one to withdraw on behalf of the opposition parties was ARENA President Cristiani. In other words, I believe that we have made no progress. Where are the guarantees that have... [changes thought] How many rebels turned themselves in during the 15 days when they were supposed to lay down their weapons and accept the amnesty? I believe none. I heard today in a newscast aired by this station that one rebel had shown up at a Red Cross unit, after the 15-day period. Just one. However, it helped the left, since political prisoners were freed, and everything is confused now. Therefore, I do not see any improvement. Nevertheless, I believe that by offering the amnesty and creating the Reconciliation Commission we have surpassed what Ortega has done in Nicaragua. He has not lifted the state of siege, has not granted amnesty, and thus far he is only trying to gain time within the Esquipulas II process. [passage omitted]

[Temes] Major, you were always at ARENA's forefront as its spokesman. You have been a very popular leader and your charisma and straightforwardness made you the main spokesman of your party, which is considered a rightist party. Later, ARENA replaced you with Cristiani as ARENA's spokesman. How do you feel after being replaced by someone else as main spokesman of a party that you created?

[D'Aubuisson] Look, it did not affect me at all. On the contrary, I was glad, because when I was ARENA's president I analyzed the situation and I personally decided that I should not continue as president of the party after leading it for 4 years and participating in a presidential campaign. I also realized that the charges that could hurt the party were against me, and not against the party. Our party's principles and ideology are well-defined. The party's selection was wise. ARENA President Cristiani is a great man and a great politician. He is a sensible and capable man.

[Temes] So you are pleased.

[D'Aubuisson] Of course! At that time it was also agreed that I could not be left out. So the party proposed that I be named honorary president, as founder of the party.

[Temes] What are your plans for the next elections? Has the party selected [words indistinct]

[D'Aubuisson] As of now—I can say this today—I will run for a legislative position, representing La Libertad Department. However, I believe that one of the mischiefs that Duarte and the PDC have previewed as a result of the uproar that Msgr Romero's case has generated is that it could be a long time before the appropriate judge dismisses my case and it could be too late then to register my candidacy. However, this does not bother me either, as I do not have to be in politics all the time. I will always be a party member and I will always be a politician. [passage omitted]

Ungo Comments on Visit, Ortega Remarks

PA062230 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo from Washington by journalist Raul Beltran in San Salvador; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Beltran] there is interest here in El Salvador regarding the meeting between FDR representatives and U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr. Could you tell us what subjects were discussed and if there was in fact a meeting between the FDR and rightist sectors headed by ARENA before you and Zamora left the country?

[Ungo] I have not contacted Ruben Zamora since my departure from El Salvador. I do not know if there was a meeting with ARENA leaders. In reality, it was not clear to me whether there was a willingness to meet. However, I can say that neither the Liberation Party nor ARENA reacted negatively or rejected the meeting. Therefore, I believe that it is still possible for us to continue along this line of political action, which seeks to talk with and maintain a dialogue with all political and social sectors. The Liberation Party initially accepted the invitation, but later on—they must know why; I do not know if it was because they had other commitments or problems—they canceled their participation, without ruling out the possibility of future meetings. Therefore, I could not give you a categorical answer, because we do not know if the cancellation was a result of practical or political difficulties. However, I believe that it is a positive aspect that there was no public or categorical rejection.

Now, regarding our talks with Ambassador Corr: It was not a secret meeting, although it was private—and I believe it is wise to maintain things at that level. Evidently, we exchanged views, impressions, and political ideas; and we disagreed on almost everything. However, there was a positive attitude, which was recognizing that our presence in El Salvador was convenient and favorable. Therefore, I believe that that was the main purpose of the meeting. I also believe that the fact that I am currently in the United States and Washington is also favorable for our line of action, which is to seek a broader presence in the country and greater participation in national political life.

[Beltran] How long will you stay in Washington, and could you confirm the veracity of dispatches from Managua stating that President Daniel Ortega reportedly requested the dismantling of FMLN bases and the withdrawal of FDR leaders from Managua in compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements? We would like to hear your comments on this.

[Ungo] Yes, I was asked about this in El Salvador, based on unclear reports that seemed to be manipulated by the government. I have also heard reports here citing the government and President Duarte on alleged talks with Daniel Ortega. At the same time, I have heard about false statements that President Duarte has made here during interviews. For example, he said that the FMLN claims to have control over 12 of the 14 Salvadoran departments, which is false. What the FMLN has said is that its military actions are carried out in 12 of the 14 departments. Therefore, I believe that Duarte either misunderstands, distorts, or deliberately manipulates things. I am not certain whether Nicaraguan President Ortega has called him; however, I have read President Ortega's statements, which I feel are correct and adequate. In his statement Ortega did not mention any such thing; he expresses his willingness to comply with the Esquipulas II agreements, which among other things include giving no material or military aid to insurrectional military forces. That is on the one hand. On the other, I believe that President Duarte himself has admitted, because it is evident and clear, that Ilopango Airport—a military airport under strict surveillance, because there is a war in El Salvador—served as a supply base for the contras; and he has said this will not continue in the future. Therefore, I believe there was deliberate manipulation in this. Furthermore, I believe that neither Nicaragua nor any other country should be asked to give up one of the most sacred institutions of Latin American and international law: the right of asylum. However, Duarte did just that. He asked Mexico and Panama to make an exception—those were his words—and to expel Salvadorans who were in those countries. In my opinion, no government can request or agree to this, neither Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, nor any other Latin American country. This is only a sign of weakness, and frankly an antidemocratic concept in political life.

I will explain why: If only our presence or that of our comrades in Mexico, Panama, or Nicaragua or in any other country—exerting the legitimate right to asylum—can be destabilizing, Duarte is really in trouble. What if we were permanently inside our country? If he feels that our simple presence abroad can destabilize him, then what he wants is to have us thrown into the ocean. In addition, this also shows lack of democratic spirit. If he has asked for our incorporation into El Salvador's political life the least he can do is to accept our right to live in any country, not only inside El Salvador, but also abroad. In that sense I believe he is wrong; therefore, his request has been rejected not only by the various governments I have mentioned, but by other Latin American governments. The fact that I have been able to meet, talk, and get acquainted with many Latin American and European government representatives here in Washington and New York shows that they do not see things as President Duarte does. That is how I see Nicaragua's position. I do not believe the Nicaraguan Government will assume a different position than other Latin American governments.

[Beltran] When will you be back in El Salvador after your first visit, and what are your impressions after 7 years in exile from almost 8 days in our country, during which you met with representatives from various sectors of our national life?

[Ungo] As I have said, we were in the country for 6 complete days during which we cannot say we managed to build or rebuild a new situation or a new country—which is what we want—and then rested on the 7th day. Things are much more complicated and require much more effort and more time. This was a first step. We experienced very conflictive feelings: much joy and many emotions, fear, and concern over continuing this process. At the time of our departure we felt relieved. We recall those intense moments when we embraced so many friends and comrades. As a result of our contact with hundreds of people—who expressed the feelings, positions, and thoughts of thousands of Salvadorans—we now have a better picture of our reality. Thanks to the media—except for *La Prensa Grafica* and *El Diario de Hoy*—all the radio, press, and television media made it possible for us to communicate with the Salvadoran people to express our opinion and to a certain extent clarify positions that have often been distorted.

Now we must decide how to continue advancing in this process—not only myself, but the other party leaders, the intermediate leaders, the cadres, and rank and file, who must assume more active roles—while at the same time avoiding great risks, because in El Salvador we are still facing repressive conditions with very active death squads. That benefits the regime functionally as it is a way of keeping us on the side. We hope to have a more complete evaluation; I am consulting the members of my party's directorate to see how this will be done. We plan to visit El Salvador next year, as soon as possible, and we hope to stay longer the next time, but not under artificial conditions resulting from the nonexistence of democratic guarantees; we had arrived this time accompanied by an important and large political group, which cannot and should not always be the case. It should be normal in a democracy to arrive, leave, and live in your own country, and to exert your political rights without any problem. This not only applies to me, but to all the leaders and cadres of my party. Meanwhile, I am awaiting a definitive and official decision from the Central Electoral Council regarding our request for the authorization of the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement]. We must evaluate, analyze, and weigh all these factors to continue the process for our party's development and growth, with a broader presence in El Salvador. I would say that we are planning another visit during the first months of next year.

On Alternatives to Conflict

PA061302 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] FDR leader Guillermo Ungo today asserted in Washington, D.C., that there is now a political opening in El Salvador and that the alternatives to the armed conflict are negotiation or surrender.

In a meeting with the press Ungo described the U.S. Government's assessment of the situation in El Salvador and the rebel forces as misguided. He said: We want the peacemaking process that began with the Guatemala agreement to continue, and we are trying to expand our presence in the country's political arena.

The rebel leader said that President Duarte's attitude on the return of the opposition leaders was ambiguous and contradictory. He explained that during his stay in El Salvador he tried to set into motion a merger—which is not a party or a coalition but merely an initial step toward the consensus necessary to reach a political settlement.

He said that neither of the warring sides has any possibility of achieving military victory or getting the other side to surrender in El Salvador and that the only option is negotiation.

Guatemala

Peru's Garcia, Cerezo Discuss Peace Process

PA040006 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Report on statements by Peruvian President Alan Garcia and President Vinicio Cerezo at "Air Force installations" in Guatemala; date not given—passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Here at the Air Force installations, shortly before leaving Guatemala, President Alan Garcia acknowledged the good work done by President Vinicio Cerezo:

[Garcia] "I wish to express my deep satisfaction with my visit to Guatemala, to directly greet its people, and to embrace President Cerezo as a Latin American. We highly appreciate his contributions to the search for peace and the reaffirmation of democracy in Central America.

"His political determination has been one of the main factors in securing the beginning of a process, which we are convinced will result in solutions for Central American problems. Upon being decorated with the Order of the Quetzal yesterday I highlighted the importance of Guatemala in Central America and the major role played by your president when he proposed the meeting of the five Central American heads of state and the establishment of the Central American parliament. I also pointed to his political determination and his clear objectives, which led him to promote the fulfillment of the Esquipulas agreements, and to his sincerity that should inspire us to resolve all problems in the short term by strengthening democracy, finalizing reconciliation processes, and leading us to a further consolidation of the democratic system and freedoms in this area of our continent."

[Announcer] President Garcia said he was pleased by the strength of the democratic process in our country:

[Garcia] "It pleases me to see the great strength of democracy in Guatemala and the solid political determination of its president to promote the solution of any problem."

[Announcer] Alan Garcia added that heads of state must pursue the well-being of the majority of the population in all countries afflicted with poverty:

[Garcia] "I believe we have the right and the duty as heads of state to bring justice to our peoples; we must prevent isolation. Peruvian peasant communities were isolated for centuries; they had no shoes or schools. Some of them did not even speak our official language. I believe that in all countries affected by this situation, which is usually wherever there is poverty, heads of state are obligated to bring about a transformation and to struggle for justice.

"If justice means channeling money and resources to isolated peasant sectors, we must do just that; if justice means making the country's economy independent from the aegis of international institutions, we must do just that; if justice means altering the enormous inequalities and contradictions that have placed all the wealth in very few hands, we must ensure that that wealth will reach the hands of the national majorities; if justice calls for the demise of three or four groups to teach them what democracy is and to prevent them from holding all the money, we must do that; if justice calls on us to levy taxes on those who are not paying them, we must do that; and if justice obliges us to make the wealthiest contribute more to the country's future, we must do that."

[Announcer] As for the OAS, the Peruvian president said that the Group of Eight seeks to strengthen that group:

[Garcia] "We wish to decentralize it to make it Latin American as well. We want to air great discussions and topics in that forum. The issue of peace in Central America should be carefully discussed and resolved within the OAS; the debt issue should have led to a common agreement within the OAS; our relationship with the United States should be framed within the OAS. If the OAS fails to play a role it will be replaced by other procedures. However, this would only discredit multilateralism. The Group of Eight seeks just the opposite: to strengthen that forum."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, President Vinicio Cerezo said that Guatemala sympathizes with the Group of Eight but will continue to participate in the Central American process to contribute to the achievement of Latin American unity:

[Cerezo] "Guatemala is strongly determined to maintain its involvement in the Central American process. We admire the Group of Eight, but once a stronger integration process starts we will be willing to consolidate the Latin American spirit of unity."

[Announcer] The Guatemalan head of state said he discussed peace in Central America and the foreign debt with President Alan Garcia:

[Cerezo] "We basically discussed the two most important aspects of the Esquipulas meeting, which are the foreign debt and peace in Central America. We held a very pleasant conversation. We believe the Group of Eight will play an important role as a commission that will bring about concerted efforts to cooperate with the decisions of the Central American presidents."

[Announcer] As for his government's position on the foreign debt, Cerezo said that it should not jeopardize our countries's development:

[Cerezo] "Although Guatemala does not have a debt that could significantly hinder its development, a single financial and political outlook is correct and acceptable to Guatemala. We are completely convinced that the foreign debt should not jeopardize each country's internal development."

[Announcer] The head of state categorically said that there is no draft law to nationalize the banking system:

[Cerezo] "He [Garcia] proposed that to congress and it was approved. There is nothing to fear. President Alan Garcia is a good president for Peru, and he knows what must be done in Peru. I am the Guatemalan president and I know what should be done in Guatemala. There will be no nationalization; there are taxes."

[Announcer] Other presidents from friendly countries will be arriving in Guatemala in the next few days. This shows that the international isolation of Guatemala has definitely diminished, Cerezo said:

[Cerezo] "The international isolation of Guatemala has definitely decreased since last year. President Duarte will visit on Wednesday, the Costa Rican president on Sunday, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will probably visit in early 1988. Guatemala has become a meeting center for people who wish to promote the independent and autonomous development of Latin American and other world countries."

Nicaragua

Reportage on, Reaction to Santo Domingo Talks

Talks End; No Agreement

PA1042136 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1940 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Santo Domingo—The first indirect negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and the mercenary leadership, with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo acting as mediator, ended this afternoon without reaching a specific agreement. Cardinal Obando y Bravo held two separate meetings with the two sides and said the negotiations had reached an impasse, which will not guarantee the Christmas cease-fire he had personally requested. According to Obando y Bravo the problems arose when the Nicaraguan Government rejected a proposal that would allow a cease-fire to be implemented provided the state of emergency was lifted and a pardon was issued for all political prisoners and prisoners convicted of related crimes.

The prelate said the Nicaraguan Government stated it would accept the two provisions if the contras agreed to give up U.S. aid and pledged to not occupy Central American territory. The contras countered by saying they would accept the two provisions if the Nicaraguan Government agreed to democratize the country, according to the definition stated in the proposal that was previously presented to the government. Cardinal Obando y Bravo announced that he will try to meet with President Daniel Ortega to request direct negotiations between the two parties in the near future.

Obando Outlines Proposal

PA1042304 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2007 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Report by ANN reporter Sonia Gonzalez from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic—live]

[Text] A meeting between Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the counterrevolutionaries' delegation concluded a few minutes ago. Obando y Bravo met earlier with the commission working on a cease-fire and drafted a communique.

You will now hear Cardinal Obando y Bravo.

[Begin Obando recording] [Passage indistinct] We met today with the government delegation and we just ended another meeting with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. I would say these problems are not very simple or easy. However, (?in these) preliminary talks we have [words indistinct] acceptance of the mediator by the two sides—the Nicaraguan Government and the RN. Both the RN and the Nicaraguan Government want peace; they accept [words indistinct] in the Esquipulas II plan; and they want to reach a cease-fire to avoid bloodshed.

Of course, in reality, there came a time when it looked like we had reached a deadlock. Then, in an attempt to break the impasse, I made the following proposal to the RN, which I am going to read:

In order to create the necessary conditions to negotiate a cease-fire and to avoid bloodshed, the Nicaraguan Government and the RN are urged to agree—showing their good faith and in view of the complexity of the process—to a temporary truce and the corresponding cease-fire in the shortest possible time and [words indistinct].

To achieve this, which is the aspiration of the Nicaraguan people, I suggest the following:

1. Implementation, within the framework of Esquipulas II, of the following:

a. General amnesty for political and related crimes.

b. Freedom of speech, which must include freedom of speech for television, radio, and the print media, including the opening and operation of media for all ideological groups and the operation of such media without prior censorship.

c. Repeal of the state of emergency and the establishment of a de jure state with the enforcement of all rights and guarantees of citizens.

During this temporary period the parties must make progress in the negotiations and agree on a timetable and location for the meetings as well as agree on the methods or procedures to expeditiously discuss the agenda they may agree on.

The mediation and moderating efforts entrusted to the undersigned must be carried out in an effective and autonomous manner.

The parties will immediately formally appoint their respective negotiating commissions. The desired truce may be held during the following times:

From 1200 on 7 December to 2400 on 8 December, as a show of homage and respect for the Marian spirit on the day of the Immaculate Conception, and from 0000 on 22 December 1987 to 2400 on 6 January 1988, as a show of homage and respect for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the New Year, and Epiphany.

Between 9 December 1987 and 7 January 1988 the parties should have reached agreement on this cease-fire which, combined with the enforcement of the democratization measures covered by the Esquipulas II agreement, will make the enforcement of these agreements a reality.

To contribute to the effectiveness of the proposed truces, the Episcopal Conference will, with whatever assistance and counseling it deems necessary, take the necessary measures to ensure the verification and compliance with the terms agreed to by the parties.

Of course, this proposal was accepted by the RN in principle. During the meeting we held with the Nicaraguan Government delegation the Nicaraguan Government agreed to the cease-fire but said the mechanisms and ways in which it will be monitored have to be discussed. It said at the start that this had to be without conditions.

The RN agreed to the cease-fire but at the same time wanted the state of emergency to be lifted. It wants complete amnesty and full freedom of speech. A member of the government delegation phoned me a while ago and said that these two things—that is, lifting the cease-fire [as heard] and total amnesty and freedom of speech—are not enough [no esta completo] and that they demand two more points, in other words, a ban on the use of Central American territory to wage war and an end to the assistance.

In view of this the RN said that they are in agreement, save for the addition of the word democratization, with all of the points we have set forth in the proposal we have submitted to the Nicaraguan Government.

These are, more or less, the points we have discussed. It was agreed that efforts will be made for the two commissions to hold direct talks. The direct talks would, of course, facilitate negotiations. This indirect dialogue is causing delays. [end recording]

Obando Wants Direct Dialogue

PA051349 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has proposed greater flexibility between delegations of the Nicaraguan Government and the mercenary leadership, which are trying to reach a cease-fire agreement. Upon his return last night to Managua from the Dominican Republic Obando y Bravo made a call to both sides to be more flexible; he said there must be a face-to-face dialogue so progress can be made.

[Begin Obando y Bravo recording] I would say that both sides have agreed on some points. These points are: The government and the Nicaraguan Resistance delegations have agreed that peace should be sought to prevent further bloodshed; there should be negotiations on a cease-fire; and it is necessary to look for paths leading to peace. These were just preliminary talks. We have found some difficulties. Of course we would have liked to see a truce on 7 and 8 December, the dates we celebrate our

Virgin Mary's feasts. We had also proposed a truce from 22 December to 7 January to celebrate the birth of Christ, our Lord. We did not, however, reach an agreement on this.

I am still optimistic because dialogue has not been suspended. We have talked about the possibility of meeting from 14 to 17 or 18 December; this was proposed by the government delegation. The Nicaraguan Resistance members have said they would be willing to meet any time the mediator calls them. Naturally, we still have the problem that there is an insistence on holding the talks in Central America. We have not been able to overcome this insistence yet. We have proposed to the government and to the Nicaraguan Resistance delegation that if we want to speed up this process, if we want to avoid further bloodshed—there are 50 young men killed each day; consequently there are some 1,500 young men dying in Nicaragua each month. There are 1,500 mothers who are crying. If the young men are married, there are 1,500 crying wives, and if they had sons of their own, the situation would be worse. If we really want to avoid further bloodshed it is necessary to make a greater effort.

I ask both sides to be more flexible and to hold a direct dialogue; otherwise the talks would have a long way to go. I ask both sides to be more flexible and to hold direct talks so we can make further progress.

Both sides want a cease-fire and both sides say they want to comply with Esquipulas II.

Simultaneity is a big obstacle which complicates everything. This is one of the most serious obstacles.

There were also difficulties regarding the regions. The government delegation pointed out three regions: one near Honduras [words indistinct], one between Matagalpa and Zelaya Norte, and one between Rio San Juan and Zelaya Sur; this encompases approximately 10,000 square km. The other side pointed out 68,500 square km because they said they were present in those regions. However, I believe this is negotiable.

As long as we keep negotiating in an indirect way we will have a long way to go. I insist that to establish a cease-fire both delegations must meet face-to-face. I want them to meet face-to-face, a direct dialogue, so the mediator does not have to work until 2300 and then call up a delegation for 2 and 1/2 hours and then call up the other side to report to them about the proposals made by the other side. I am talking about a direct dialogue, a face-to-face meeting. [end recording]

Tinoco: Talks 'Constructive'

PA050028 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2155 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 4 Dec (EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco today reaffirmed that Nicaragua will not hold direct talks with the "contras" and dismissed the contra delegation sent to Santo Domingo to negotiate a cease-fire as being "third-rate."

Shortly before his return to Managua Tinoco gave newsmen the Nicaraguan Government's version of this first round of negotiations between Sandinists and "contras" mediated by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in Santo Domingo.

Tinoco, who headed the Sandinist government delegation, said he was pleased with this first meeting and that it had been a "positive" meeting because "it started a process that did not exist before."

However, he was emphatic on insisting that the cease-fire plan "was an indirect plan, submitted through the cardinal, and no direct negotiations are being considered with this force that represents the U.S. Administration."

Regarding the truce suggested by Obando y Bravo, which would imply a corresponding expansion of the amnesty and the elimination of the state of emergency, Tinoco said that these points need to be considered with others "that were forgotten in that proposal."

In sum, the vice foreign minister discarded the truce and the corresponding measures if the United States continues to support the "contras" and Honduras continues to be used to supply the rebels.

Tinoco affirmed that the "contras" have refused to allow Obando y Bravo to have the team of advisers proposed by House Speaker Jim Wright.

"They answered, through the cardinal, that they did not agree that advisers from one side should advise their own side," said Tinoco. [sentence as received]

Another point of contention was the site for the next meeting. The Sandinists want to continue meeting in the Dominican Republic and the "contras" insist on meeting in Central America.

Tinoco confirmed that the Sandinist government had suggested a second round of negotiations on 17-18 December, with the mediation of the cardinal, in Santo Domingo, and that the Nicaraguan delegation was returning "pleased, because the meeting was constructive."

"This process is not simple for a simple reason," Tinoco said. "The United States is one of the principal players in this conflict and this player is not participating; it was only represented by a third-rate delegation."

According to Tinoco this results in difficulties and makes progress slower.

The "contra" delegation was headed by economist Jaime Morales Carazo, who 2 years ago was the U.S. State Department's candidate to lead the Nicaraguan Opposition Union (UNO), precursor to the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN).

While Tinoco was rejecting direct talks in forthcoming sessions, Cardinal Obando y Bravo was announcing that he would ask Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega that the two delegations sit down at the same table to speed up the process on reaching a cease-fire agreement.

The cardinal returned to Managua this afternoon in a plane provided by the Venezuelan Government and the Nicaraguan delegation returned on a Panamanian Air Force plane.

Further Tinoco Comments

PA050417 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Report by Mario Zelaya from the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport—live]

[Text] We are here at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport where the revolutionary government's official delegation and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo have just arrived. They have been in the Dominican Republic. As we have reported, Cardinal Obando y Bravo met with the mercenary leadership that represents the Reagan administration.

When Vice Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco arrived here at the airport he said a new meeting has been scheduled in the Dominican Republic for 14-18 December. In addition, he described the meeting held in the Dominican Republic as very positive and noted that during the talks an attempt was made to do away with the Esquipulas II agreements. He also said the talks were held with a third-rate Reagan administration delegation. Let us listen to a brief statement made by Tinoco when he arrived at Sandino Airport.

[Begin Tinoco recording] In telling you about these matters we want to stress certain points. First, the Nicaraguan Government delegation clearly told Cardinal Obando y Bravo that the agreement reached between the cardinal and the government that the talks would be indirectly held with Obando y Bravo's mediation had to be respected.

This was a plan suggested by [Costa Rican] President Arias and we had agreed to this as part of our effort to see if a cease-fire was feasible.

Consequently, we understood very clearly this was the plan that was approved. We met with this understanding and, therefore, under no circumstances is there any possibility of a face-to-face conversation with the third-rate representatives sent by the Reagan administration, that contra delegation that went to Santo Domingo.

Second, we want to state that we asked the cardinal to ask this Reagan administration delegation, the mercenaries, for their opinion concerning the 11-point proposal made by the Nicaraguan Government for a cease-fire, which was made, as you may recall, on 13 November.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo responded that the Reagan-contra delegation refused to comment on this Nicaraguan proposal.

We also asked the cardinal several questions regarding the mercenary group's proposal; in other words, the Reagan administration proposal. The cardinal told us again that this Reagan administration delegation did not want to respond to our question about their own proposal.

This means the cardinal told us that this mercenary delegation, representing the Reagan administration, had not only refused to give an opinion about our proposal but also about its own proposal.

In addition, we emphasized the importance of the cardinal having his own working team. He needed a team to support him, as was suggested by Jim Wright, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Speaker Wright had proposed that a group of people help the cardinal. Regarding this, the cardinal informed us that the so-called Resistance, as he calls the mercenary group, simply opposed the idea.

We also insisted that the meetings had to be held and continue to be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It must be recalled that we originally said the meetings should be held in the United States. The Reagan administration, through the contras, insisted that the meetings be held in Central America. However, so as to not have them either in the United States or Central America, it was decided that they would be held in the Dominican Republic. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Cardinal Obando y Bravo insisted that direct talks be held between the Somozist mercenaries and the revolutionary government. The Nicaraguan vice minister said the revolutionary government agrees, but to direct talk with the Reagan administration, because it finances, advises, and supports the Somozist mercenaries.

Tinoco also said Nicaragua is willing to continue the cease-fire talks and emphasized that Esquipulas II must be supported; otherwise, the real possibilities for peace in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua, will slip away from us.

Arce Comments on Talks

PA1042316 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2014 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, during the Fourth National Assembly of the Health Workers Federation held at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua's Ruben Dario Hall in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...the U.S. magazine *Newsweek*, which said a contra leader who asked not to be identified complained the CIA has 100-percent control over them. And to top it all, he said, they have to submit to the CIA detailed budgets even to open an office. In the same statements they complained, for example, that Calero, who is supposed to be their leader, was told he could not have his picture taken with Cardinal Obando y Bravo when the cardinal agreed to go to the United States to receive our proposal making him the mediator for a cease-fire agreement.

In conclusion, the contras said their counterproposal for a cease-fire is being drafted by U.S. officials. This was the complaint by this contra leader to *Newsweek*.

In other words, the so-called counterproposal you already know about—because we decided to print it in its entirety in our newspaper, *Barricada*, so the people would understand what it really is—was drafted, as we have always charged, by the United States. If you read it—I imagine you already read it—you would realize this counterproposal is truly saying they are not one bit interested in seeking peace. This is because, according to their proposal, to have a cease-fire they said that, first, we have to give a total amnesty, one including the Somozist guardsmen, something we already said will never happen. Second, they say we have to lift the state of emergency. The National Assembly already approved this, and we will enforce it when the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission confirms the United States has stopped the war. Third, as a condition for a cease-fire they said we have to begin democratization.

When they talk about democratization they demand, among other things, that we dissolve the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee], the peasant cooperatives, and the state security organizations. They demand we disarm the Army. In other words, they are demanding we turn over power to them.

Logically, this is an absurd, ridiculous proposal. Yesterday we ordered that *Barricada* publish a map according to which the contras claim to control 68,000 square km on this country. The map does not truly show 68,000 square km but approximately 100,000. If they had added a little more we would not be able to get out of this room. [laughter]

This is the latest example we had received up to yesterday of the U.S. Government's warmongering attitude.

We therefore cannot harbor any hopes that peace was achieved because the Esquipulas II agreements were signed. Today we are still facing the darkest road ahead because the negotiations with Cardinal Obando y Bravo's mediation in the Dominican Republic have already ended.

What did we find after this effort ended? It was an effort that not only involved the Dominican Republic, which lent its territory, but also Venezuela and Panama, which lent their planes so the delegations could travel, etc. What did we find? First, the so-called delegation they sent there to discuss a cease-fire did not give any response to the 11-point proposal we made for a cease-fire agreement. We made this proposal so we can truly have peace and so they can seek the protection of the amnesty, join the political process, and even join the national dialogue, once they put down their weapons.

The delegation had no authorization to respond to our proposal. Regarding their counterproposal, which as I have already said is not very serious, we decided to ask them some technical questions about some aspects intrinsic to a cease-fire agreement because they are confused about what cease-fire and stop firing mean. It is such a mess that we had to technically define a cease-fire.

We gave this to Cardinal Obando and the cardinal took the questions to them, but they were unable to answer any of our questions. We clearly understand this after reading *Newsweek*; the only ones who can give a reply are the U.S. officials who drafted that document. We made no progress, not even in technical aspects, which are the aspects that should be discussed to make a cease-fire possible, according to Esquipulas.

We heard a news conference broadcast by radio in which Cardinal Obando despairingly said he has seen an impasse, a dead-end. He then decided he could do something to clear the way and he proposed a Christmas truce, that we have, at least, a truce during Christmas. Our delegation told him that to have a Christmas truce it is necessary that the U.S. Government stop waging war on us, stop the aggression. We would be willing to accept a Christmas truce if there were no aggression. We are concerned about Obando y Bravo's proposal because if we start negotiating a truce we will lose time that we should use to negotiate an agreement on a cease-fire, which is more important. The problem is not a truce, but peace, and to have peace the United States must stop waging war.

When we presented our proposal to the bishop [title as heard] and he took it to the contras, they said they would not accept that. In other words, the United States has rejected the idea of a Christmas truce. Why? Because the United States does not want the war to stop. It does not

want to stop sending war supplies to the counterrevolutionaries. It refuses to stop encouraging the terrorist actions that are carried out in the country, which you can read about in the paper. There was this recent attack on the cooperative in the little town of San Ramon, in Condega. There is the continuous killing of children, women, and defenseless workers who are the target of the U.S. Government's mercenary forces.

Political actions by the Reagan administration's counterrevolutionaries consist of rejections of practical efforts to secure peace. It is very clear to us that their attitude is to continue sowing U.S.-financed terror, which calls for the murdering of children, the destruction of cooperatives, and attacks on civilian objectives.

With the present situation, how can we think that peace is near? We cannot harbor any hopes yet. The only realistic thing we have left, in addition to continuing to fight to fulfill the Esquipulas II agreement, in addition to continuing to fight to force the United States to negotiate with Nicaragua, and in addition to continuing to seek peace through every diplomatic means, is to continue to fight until the last Reagan mercenary in this country is crushed. [applause]

This is why, recently, when we had the national meeting with the Sandino Cubs who had completed active military service, we made it clear, through Daniel [Ortega], that our people must remove from their heads, from their dictionaries, the word demobilization, because not one of us can feel demobilized as long as there is a war here.

All of us must be permanently mobilized, either in the active military service, the reserves, the militias, the revolutionary watch, civil defense, the economic front, or in the services that you are engaged in, defending this revolution, resisting aggression, and mobilizing ourselves more and more to be able to defeat U.S. aggression. [chants of slogans]

We have always said that peace is only attainable in two ways: either by political means, by means of negotiation, or by defeating and crushing the aggressors.

I know, and all of Nicaragua knows, of the great efforts, sacrifices, and concessions we have made to use every political means possible to end the war.

And we have struggled for years, accepting everything that was proposed by Contadora and the Esquipulas agreement. We have more than fulfilled the Esquipulas commitments. Tomorrow is the eve of the day when the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission gives its decision on who has complied with the Esquipulas agreement.

There are countries such as Honduras, which is always talking about our democracy, that have the nerve to continuously criticize, while Honduras has not even formed a national reconciliation commission—names have been submitted, but the commission itself has not been formed—Honduras, where asylum is given to the counterrevolution, where the counterrevolution supply flights fly out of Aguacate, Palmerola, and Swan Island; Honduras, where the Honduran Episcopal Conference and the Honduran Human Rights Commission have publically revealed thousands of murders, because in that country they do not jail opposition members. Of course they can give amnesty in Honduras. They have no [political] prisoners; they have killed everyone.

The only country where a national dialogue exists is Nicaragua. Tell me, where else have you heard that a national dialogue exists? There are a large number of political parties in every country. And some of these countries talk about democracy in Nicaragua. What democracy can these countries talk about when, for example, in all of them, in all Central American countries the Communist Party has been banned?

Communist parties are not allowed in any of them. And how can they demand pluralism and democracy from Nicaragua when they themselves are not being pluralistic or democratic with respect to their countries' revolutions?

Anyway, the International Commission will have to define clearly who has complied and who has not. And it will be shown that Nicaragua has complied with practically all of the Esquipulas agreements.

It is true that some of these measures will not go into effect until the commission determines whether simultaneity exists, because that is a stipulation of the agreements. At that time the state of emergency will be lifted and the amnesty will be granted to those who committed crimes against the revolutionary state after 1979—but only when the commission decides that the other countries have also complied with the agreement.

When they tell us there are national dialogues everywhere; when they tell us that communist parties have been legalized; when they tell us there are no more counterrevolutionary bases in Honduras and no more supply flights leaving Ilopango in El Salvador; and when they tell us the counterrevolutionary radio station Liberacion is no longer transmitting from El Salvador, and Radio 15 de Septiembre is no longer transmitting from Honduras, and Radio Impacto is not transmitting from Costa Rica—then, and only then, will there be simultaneity.

The International Verification and Follow-Up Commission will not be able to say tomorrow that this has been fulfilled, because the other countries have 10 days left to comply with very many things. So, yes, we have to struggle for Esquipulas. We must struggle for these agreements to be fulfilled. We must struggle to end the war through political means, and we have been doing this.

However, if the political mechanisms do not work, will we surrender? [crowd says: "No"] Should we capitulate? [crowd says: "No"] Should we disarm the Army like Reagan wants? [crowd says: "No"] Should we dissolve the CDS? [crowd says: "No"] Should we end the cooperatives? [crowd says: "No] Therefore, we have to defend the CDS, the cooperatives, and this labor freedom you are enjoying, and there is only one way to defend them: with arms in hand. [applause, shouts] It is regrettable that all efforts made by us, the people, the people's sacrifices... [changes thought] because we know the mothers of our heroes and martyrs are not applauding us, because over 900 people have been pardoned and released. We know the people are not happy with a number of things we have had to do in the quest for peace. And if the people have backed these decisions by the government and the FSLN it is because they want peace, but not at the expense of surrender. We do not want an unworthy peace.

As I was saying, it is regrettable such sacrifices are not finding a response. Let us not expect, for instance, that we will receive a response from Reagan, because sometimes we think this gentleman is not quite well in the head or is, in any event, so fascist, so fascist [repeats himself] that he is intolerant of any independent political attitude.

However, see what the so-called opposition has done with our Esquipulas efforts. But to top it all, one of those chosen [eligios], Remigios [not further identified]—I do not know what they call them, those who are misnamed or mistakenly referred to as the Communist Party members who were never legal under the dictatorship; they were always underground—who have not opened their mouths to ask that the Communist Parties in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costas Rica, and Honduras be made legal, they are very good friends with the oligarchs, with the Rappacciolis and the Donas Miriamcitas Arguellos. They are all a single bloc, and they have the nerve—true nerve—to say that their proposals coincide with those of the counterrevolution. We are not surprised [applause] because since 19 July 1979 there have been only two paths in Nicaragua: revolution or counterrevolution. A person is either for the revolution or for the counterrevolution.

All those who are there wanting to dismantle the revolution—even if they are legal parties mistakenly called communists, socialists, or social Christians—are currently acting like counterrevolutionaries.

Now they want to amend the Constitution. It is a Constitution which was discussed with all the people for 2 years. It is a Constitution which they signed and discussed. Their views are contained in that Constitution. However, since the counterrevolution is saying that it must now be questioned they all rush to question it. What a lack of seriousness!

Now, they feel very happy. They came together and became united. Perhaps their dream came true. The Altamiranos, a last name that has no lineage, feel equal to the Rappacciolis and the Arguellos, who are of lineage. Now, they are a single opposition. In addition, they now are a single opposition with the Caleros, the Bermudez, and the Reagans. In other words, this family mixture is really beautiful.

Therefore, the statement you signed with the CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers], the ATC [Farm Workers Association], the UPN [Union of Nicaraguan Journalists], and ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] seems correct to the FSLN.

I do not know about the government. We still have not discussed the issue about the constitutional amendments; we said we would voice our opinion in 15 days because, after all, we are not idle. The revolutionary government is not engaged in political idleness.

In the first place, it is seriously working for peace. It is involved in diplomatic efforts. In the second place, we must keep defending ourselves in a continuing war which does not seem to end. In the third place, we must keep analyzing the country's economic problems. We must think about ways to defend the workers' economy.

They say, however, that we must give priority to them and respond to them right away. Well, they have to wait 15 days. In addition, we have given ourselves too little time. [applause]

But, I was saying that we have still not decided if we are going to accept that. We have not decided. However, since the revolutionary unions already expressed their view and said that if there are amendments—if, I must say, too—there will be amendments proposed that make the revolution advance toward socialism. You can be certain that if the union leaders who are deputies make these amendment proposals all the Sandinist deputies will back all those proposals you make. [applause]

Therefore, we want to tell you, comrades, this is what we wanted to share with you: in the analyses you are making about the health sector problems and the economic and social problems of the health workers, you must bear in mind these realities about which I am speaking. There is the reality that the war against us continues and that there is a threat for more war. There is the reality that the peace efforts and the concessions, in fact, that we have made have found no echo. There is the reality that there is not even an opportunity to positively respond to Cardinal Obando y Bravo's call about a Christmas truce because the gringos refuse to stop the aggression and the supplies to have a Christmas truce.

Consequently, all our plans must take into consideration that, unfortunately, political efforts still do not yield the results to end the war, and we must increase the military resources, the combat, and the struggle to put an end to the war through our enemies' defeat.

This is the first element to be taken into account. Second, you must be clearly aware that the effort that we made with Esquipulas which involved our most primitive opponents—because we did have primitive opponents here—in the resolution of national problems is at a standstill, without any results. This is because these people, including those who participated in the drafting of our Constitution and spent 2 years working on it, now forgot all that. They have become a bloc, a tail end of the counterrevolution and of Reagan's policy. They are now devoted to repeating what Reagan says. They eliminated their own statements.

There is no longer a difference between those who call themselves communists and those who call themselves conservatives. Those who call themselves communists and socialists are saying the same things being said by some group whose name is PALI [New Liberal Party of Nicaragua], which is full of Somozists and judges who sentenced us to jail. They are judges like Garcia Esquivel, who is a PALI leader. Now, they are all the same thing.

A saying by our people fits this situation to a tee: You cannot be kind with ungrateful people. [laughter] because the opportunity that is given to them to participate in building peace and building the new Nicaragua is being thrown overboard because they believe the gringos will defeat us.

You must have this present in your analyses. Why? So that in your specific work you can be true to your slogan that you will be efficient in the health sector despite the aggression. Why? Because if we continue to live with war we will continue to have material and economic difficulties, and we say that we must make efforts, as much as possible, to resolve economic and material problems.

However, we cannot use the material and economic problems as an excuse to become inefficient. We certainly cannot use that as an excuse. Who else but the people must defend the revolution, because they have sacrificed themselves for the revolution? We believe... [changes thought] we have discussed this with Dora and the FSLN sent Dora Tellez to the MINSA [Ministry of Health] to struggle against bureaucracy, negligence, etc. She is waging a difficult struggle because we know most of the workers are responsible for this bureaucracy and negligence. Sometimes you visit a hospital and see one or two cockroaches crawling up the wall, or else you see a pile of garbage in a hallway. This has nothing to do with the war; this has nothing to do with the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] qualifications. You must kill the cockroaches because they are repulsive! [laughter]

Consequently, despite those critical problems, the government... [changes thought] that is why we cannot issue a reply to the proposal for a dialogue within 15 days. The FSLN National Directorate members are currently discussing the government's economic policies with our cadres. You should rest assured that there is a central element in our economic analysis: the solution of our economic problems while attaining the maximum benefits or preventing any harm to our workers. That is our permanent goal! Some of our economic policies may create confusion and some may sometimes get out of hand, but all the policies we have implemented here are designed to defend the income, living conditions, and legal rights of the working classes, workers' health, and peasants' education. Our policies do not seek to benefit the bourgeoisie. This is a revolution for the people! [applause]

Therefore, it is your duty to actively participate in the resolution of all our problems, including the economic and social problems. I know you are worried about the SNOTS issue and have suggested that we follow the bourgeoisie's proposal to eliminate the SNOTS. This way the jobs become a commodity, and the people will be bribed through the salaries. This way chaos will prevail and people will get a job through their friends. No! We must struggle and perfect the SNOTS. We must improve it, see what is wrong with it, what problems may arise concerning the qualifications, etc., etc.

You must then work through the labor groups and unions to resolve the health problems. The FSLN and the revolutionary government—not to mention Dora Tellez—are not responsible for your health problems. All the people should struggle to resolve those problems because you are the ones who will benefit from this.

You must go to the communities, out of the health centers. You must meet with the Sandinist Defense Committees, CDS, and if the CDS is not helpful then you should call the people to assemblies so that the neighborhoods that are benefiting from the services provided by a given health center be the ones responsible of providing maintenance, etc.

If a carpenter can work, let him help. After all, we are giving his children health attention. If there is garbage, let the neighborhood clean it up to avoid diseases.

Hospitals, at a larger level, should convoke the entire community through the CDS or directly—if the local CDS happens to be inefficient—so that they take care of the hospital, contribute with cleaning jobs, etc. It should also be able to inspire the people that they make commitments with the revolutionary democracy in power. Being in power does not mean those in power should make demands, that they should but produce work. [applause]

We have to be belligerent in protesting deficiencies we may have in the government or in the Health Ministry. We must have objective communication, but you must not take off your own responsibilities. Your responsibility is to exercise power, to find solutions, and to resolve problems.

We wanted to talk about this so that when you review your plans you do not come out saying I want this and I want that, because the answer is that there isn't this particular thing and there isn't that particular thing. Later on we will have them.

What we must have here is clear awareness that we want peace and that we are going to continue searching for peace. This is a commitment for everybody. We will make sacrifices because of this.

Second, we have not achieved peace. We are still at war. We are facing the threat of more war and we have no alternative but to face the war, to take to the trenches and to fight until the last aggressor is defeated.

Third, the effects of the war must be assumed by all of us, in a grand act of human solidarity. We must be socialists in practice, and if we are going to give attention to the Cubs, to those handicapped by the war, let us do it during nonworking hours as well. The Cubs do not fight from 0800 to 1700 with a lunch hour in between. They do not fight from 0800 to 1700. They fight 24 hours a day. We believe that 2 additional hours every day or on week-ends to help those crippled in the war or those out of the war, or to improve services for the people, or to organize the community so that you are not the only ones doing hospital work—other people may help you clean them and fix them—is proper. This is volunteer work.

We believe that resolutions asking, asking, and asking should be turned into resolutions aware that there is a war, that there are war effects, that the revolution faces a harsh future. The resolutions should also show an awareness of how beautiful it is to be revolutionary. I believe that each one of you has been able to feel this even if you are not militants of the Front. You know how respected we are throughout the world, how much we are loved by all the countries of the world, how much we are admired by all the countries of the world, how we represent an example and a hope of liberty for all the people of the world.

With this in mind, the resolutions we should be getting from you will say: We are going to do this and that, and this is our contribution to the revolution so that the grand national slogan that No One Will Surender Here becomes a reality.

Free fatherland or death!

RN Announces Unilateral 7-8 Dec Cease-Fire

PA052009 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1921 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] San Jose, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), also known as the "contras," today agreed on a unilateral cease-fire. It will begin at 1200 on 7 December and end at 2400 on 8 December.

Mariza Leal, an RN spokesperson, made the announcement here, justifying the decision "to show good faith" and acting according to a proposal presented by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo for creating the necessary conditions for a cease-fire negotiation.

The suspension of war actions will occur from 1200 (1800 GMT) on 7 December through midnight on 8 December "to honor and respect the Marian spirit of the Nicaraguans on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception," which is a tradition observed for centuries and which is a national holiday in Nicaragua.

The RN warns that the second stage of the truce suggested by the cardinal, from 0000 on 22 December 1987 through 2400 on 6 January 1988 "to honor the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ," is subject to the Sandinists observing the first stage.

Both proposals were presented by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the mediator in the indirect dialogue between the Managua government and the "contras," during the first meeting held on Friday in the Dominican Republic.

The "contras" also accept and support the prelate's proposal for reaching a direct dialogue between the conflicting parties as soon as possible.

Ortega Responds

PA060025 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 5 Dec 87

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at the Masaya Volcano Tourist Center after Ortega's meeting with Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Republican Senators Nancy Kassenbaum of Kansas and Daniel Evans of Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What was the topic of your meeting with Senator Dodd?

[Ortega] As is known, Senator Dodd heads a U.S. Senate committee that is studying the implementation of the Guatemala agreements, and we have been talking about the latest efforts in this regard, particularly those dealing with the meeting in the Dominican Republic. We feel the very fact that we held this meeting is positive. We cannot expect all problems to be resolved in one meeting. One

must keep in mind that negotiations are always complex. Remember the talks in Paris between the United States and the Vietnamese when the discussions on the shape of the table took a long time.

We actually took little time to discuss the location of the meeting, on which we had opposing views. We thought the most appropriate place would be Washington, but the voice of the United States, the contras, thought the most appropriate place was Central America. However, we turned to the cardinal and a third place was found, Santo Domingo.

This is one point that is still pending because even though the first meeting was held in Santo Domingo and Nicaragua said it would be good to hold future meetings there, the U.S. representatives don't agree with this and insist that future meetings be held in Central America.

[Reporter] Upon his arrival yesterday, Cardinal Obando...

[Reporter, interrupting] Barely 2 hours ago a news report was issued in Costa Rica saying the contras want a cease-fire on 7-8 December without any major conditions, I believe. Is there any response to this request, Commander?

[Ortega] Well. The first thing is that if they want a cease-fire the United States has to stop firing because they are the ones who are waging war on Nicaragua. Therefore, the formula is simple: All that is needed is for the contras—who speak for the United States—to tell President Reagan: President Reagan, stop the shooting and stop the financing of terrorist activities. Then we would have a cease-fire in Nicaragua. However, the truth is that the question is no longer about truces but on how to work seriously to achieve an effective cease-fire, such as the one outlined in the Esquipulas agreement and such as the one we began to work on in Santo Domingo.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Meanwhile, our position is that we cannot grant truces to the contras. We cannot grant truces to these mercenaries, to these terrorists who are murdering our people. We will continue attacking them and pumping lead into them during these coming days in December. As long as they try to attack and do attack the Nicaraguan people they will get the correct response from...

[Reporter, interrupting] President Ortega...

[Reporter, interrupting] ...with Cardinal Obando after he returned from the Dominican Republic?

[Ortega] No, I have not met with him.

[Reporter] Mr President, what do you think of Cardinal Obando's proposal that the contras and the Sandinists meet at a single table? Do you see any possibility of this?

[Ortega] Well, there would be no sense in holding such a meeting because we would have a U.S. delegation that would have no decisionmaking power [meeting] with a government delegation that could make decisions. Logically, if they want negotiations of this type the United States must sit down with Nicaragua to discuss this [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, is there any chance that other governments, such as Guatemala or Costa Rica, would participate in the cease-fire negotiations?

[Ortega] No. They cannot participate unless they (?are involved) and if they are in agreement. Now then, if we agreed, if the cardinal agreed, and if the North American representatives agreed, then they could indeed participate. Otherwise, the Esquipulas agreements would be violated.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] No. This is ruled out. We do not agree with holding meetings with the contras in a Central American country because this would violate the Guatemala agreements.

RN 'Determined' To Hold Talks in Guatemala

PA041437 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders have met secretly in Guatemala and agreed to send a cease-fire commission to talk with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The statement was issued today by Magdalena de Pineda, a Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, collaborator exiled in Guatemala, where she works as a journalist. An emergency meeting was held early this morning; De Pineda had the chance to meet only with Adolfo Calero, even though she knows that all the other leaders had attended the meeting, she asserted. De Pineda added that the meeting place was kept a secret for security reasons. The RN activist did not know what type of transportation the anti-Sandinist leaders used to arrive in and leave Guatemala. The National Immigration Directorate has no record of their arrival. Commercial airlines have nothing in their records, either.

A source at the government palace said at noon that there is no information about the contra leaders' meeting and, officially speaking, it has not taken place here. Magdalena de Pineda said that according to the RN Directorate's statement, the agreement to participate in the dialogue does not mean the cease-fire negotiations should be held in Central American territory. Mrs Pineda confirmed that the RN Directorate members will soon meet again with Cardinal Obando y Bravo, because the Guatemalan Government is willing to act as host.

According to the source, the Guatemala City meeting was attended by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Alfonso Robelo, Alfredo Cesar, Azucena Ferrey, Aristides Sanchez, and Adolfo Calero. RN leader Adolfo Calero explained here today the reasons for not agreeing that meetings with the Sandinist government representatives be held outside Central America, particularly when there were plans to hold the meeting in Guatemala.

[Begin Calero recording] According to the Esquipulas agreement the Sandinist are obligated to arrange a cease-fire and to simultaneously release political prisoners through an amnesty, lift the state of emergency—which denies Nicaraguans their individual liberties—and to begin a genuine process of democratization.

The first thing that must be carried out is the cease-fire. We had presented a proposal to the FSLN, and we hoped the first round of meetings would be held in Guatemala. That is why we came here. Cardinal Obando y Bravo, however, yielded to Ortega's pressure, and this first round of talks was held outside Central America. The RN Directorate will not go to the Dominican Republic. The RN insists on meeting in Central America. We sent a commission there in order to not offend the cardinal. The Sandinists have also sent a commission to the Dominican Republic.

However, we hope—rather, we are determined—to hold the next negotiations in Central America, specifically in Guatemala, where the government has announced it is willing to host the meeting whenever Cardinal Obando y Bravo so requests. We were very surprised to hear Costa Rican President Arias refused to allow the meeting to be held in his country. We were surprised in particular because Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto had already announced three times that Costa Rica was willing to host these meetings between Cardinal Obando y Bravo and the RN and because President Arias is considered the Esquipulas II architect and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. [end recording]

Contra leader Adolfo Calero also explained the status of the military struggle against the Sandinist regime in his country.

[Begin Calero recording] We must first state that due to the military pressure—which is the only language the communists understand—the Sandinists agreed to sign the Esquipulas plan. Prior to that they had said they would not agree to any internal political changes. They signed the Esquipulas plan, however, which calls for internal political changes in Nicaragua.

As for our situation, we operate in two-thirds of the national territory. As of October we have had great military victories, including control over 60 km of a strategic highway joining Managua with the Atlantic coast area, which is where the Cuban and Soviet supplies are received. We have carried out an average of more than 10 military actions per day during the last few weeks in places which are quite distant from each other, such as Esteli and Rio San Juan Department, which is in the extreme southeastern part of Nicaragua; in Chontales, in the heart of Nicaragua; and in Matagalpa, Jinotega. In fact, we are very pleased with the actions that have been carried out, and with the discipline and political ideals of our commanders who, in spite of the tremendous Sandinist propaganda, did not yield to negotiate individually or collectively with the Sandinist regime and referred the Sandinists to the RN Directorate. [end recording]

RN Meets To Discuss Political Situation

PA070007 Paris AFP in Spanish 1920 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] San Jose, 6 Dec (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) began a meeting today at a San Jose hotel to discuss the Nicaraguan political situation and to draft "a government plan," an RN spokesman stated.

The assembly, the RN top body, comprised of 54 members, will begin a 2-day session at the Balmoral Hotel in San Jose, but it was not specified whether the members of the contra Directorate will also participate in the discussions.

The RN Directorate is comprised of Adolfo Calero, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Alfonso Robelo, Aristides Sanchez, Azucena Ferrey, and Alfredo Cesar.

Since the administration of former Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge (1982-1986), Calero, the top contra leader, has been banned from entering Costa Rican territory.

The RN spokesman said that "the directorate initially decided to participate in the RN assembly only if all its members were present."

Besides discussing the development of political events in Nicaragua, the RN assembly will also elect a new president of the directive council, replacing Alfredo Sacasa.

The source said: "There are two candidates: Wilfredo Montalvan and Jose Medina."

The RN spokesman emphasized that the assembly "will not discuss" military issues, thus avoiding a violation of the Central American peace plan, which stipulates Central American territory must not be used for warmongering activities against a neighboring nation.

RN on Soviet Equipment Sent to Sandinists

PA040051 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 25 Nov 87 p 12 A

[Paid advertisement by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN)]

[Text] Esquipulas II

Peace or War

Let us speak clearly!!!

There will be no peace in Central America as long as the Sandinist regime continues to arm itself.

110 T-55 Soviet tanks.

800 military jeeps.

40 BM-21 multiple rocket launchers.

40 gunships (MI-8 Hips - MI-17).

12 MI-24 helicopters (flying fortresses).

400 antiaircraft guns.

$600 million in metric tons of weapons financed by the USSR.

The total Soviet aid in tanks, helicopters, and other items from 1979 to 1987: $2 billion.

Nicaragua is a Soviet Enclave

Sandinism Is a Hindrance To Peace

Nicaraguan Resistance

Responsible signatory: Rosario Vega Roman

Passport No C-042353

Opposition on Constitutional Amendments

PA051832 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Statement issued by the 14 opposition parties participating in the national dialogue on 3 December in Managua; read by Julio Ramon Garcia, first vice president of the Social Christian Party of Nicaragua]

[Text] The undersigned, representatives of 14 political parties and groups participating in the national dialogue with the Nicaraguan Government, state the following to the Nicaraguan people and the international community:

1. We have presented to the Sandinist government, in a precise and reasoned way, 17 constitutional amendments which are essential for Nicaraguan democratization and the fulfillment of one of the main points of the Esquipulas II agreement.

2. According to the Constitution, such amendments have to be discussed and approved in two legislative terms. This means that for these amendments to take effect in 1988 the first discussion and approval must occur before 21 December 1987, when the 1987 legislative term ends.

3. The government, aware of the legal factors that could prevent the approval of these constitutional amendments, refused and continues to refuse to give an immediate response to them, thus giving itself a 15-day period to make a statement on the amendment proposal. The duration of this period practically prevents the amendments from being approved in time, thus rejecting Nicaragua's democratization.

4. Since the basic goal of the national dialogue is to reach agreements between the government and the opposition for the democratization of Nicaragua and because this is only possible through the approval of the constitutional amendments before 21 December, we ask Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to immediately answer our proposal. If he does not do so it will be impossible to discuss the other points of the dialogue agenda, because they all originate in the proposed constitutional amendments. In that way the national dialogue could not offer political bases for peace and the resolution of other problems which seriously affect our peoples and all of Central America. Therefore, to continue with the dialogue under those conditions would have no sense.

5. We denounce the Sandinist government maneuvers aimed at preventing the approval of the constitutional amendments, and we hold it solely responsible for the failure of the national dialogue and the Esquipulas II agreement in Nicaragua.

6. The undersigned political parties and groups reassert our will to continue acting with the necessary consistency to completely fulfill the Esquipulas II agreement, which presents a valuable opportunity for peace and democratization in Nicaragua and Central America.

Managua, 3 December 1987

Following are the signatures of the 14 representatives of the political parties and groups participating in the national dialogue. [no names are read]

Coronado Replaces Godoy as PLI President

PA050122 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The PLI [Independent Liberal Party] leaders who supported Virgilio Godoy as the party's president will now have to follow orders from the new leadership elected last weekend.

Godoy was PLI president for over 9 years. Last Sunday a delegates' assembly reviewed the performance of Godoy and his aides. After analyzing the PLI's situation and confirming the charges made by the movement to democratize the party, the delegates decided to replace Godoy as party president with Dr Eduardo Coronado.

Since then Godoy has been avoiding television cameras, while his followers complain. They pretend they know nothing and do not answer questions from reporters.

[Begin Coronado recording] If the PLI National Directorate reaches a decision it will call on the previous leaders to prepare thorough reports on the party's property, including cash donations, economic resources, and vehicles. The former leaders will then appear before a disciplinary tribunal. If they fail to appear they will have to accept the penalties provided for by the party regulations. In this case we are calling on them to remain calm. We will not expel anyone, as they would have advocated. [end recording]

Apparently, the new directorate will ignore any faults found. We will not expel them because we are true, independent Liberals, Coronado added.

CSN on Constitution Changes, Esquipulas

PA040233 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
2 Dec 87 p 5

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization (CSN) in Managua on 30 November]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization (CSN), comprised of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers (CST), the Farm Workers Association (ATC), the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers (ANDEN), the Health Workers Federation (FETSALUD), the National Employees Union (UNE), and the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN), representing more than 300,000 workers affiliated with our organizations, announces the following communique to the people and Government of Nicaragua and the peoples of the world:

1. The Sandinist people's revolution, which is implementing and developing the national liberation theory outlined by General Augusto C. Sandino, has generated the social, ideological, moral, and organizational force to strategically defeat the mercenary forces—that is, to defeat U.S. military policy. With that same theory we will crush U.S. ideological and political policies.

2. In 1984, for the first time in Nicaraguan history, the workers directly participated in free elections and, in 1985, we appeared before the Special Constitutional Commission to list our main demands, which we confirmed at the Open Town Meetings and in the entire process culminating with the approval of the political Constitution.

3. Those of us who participated in the drafting and approval of the political Constitution made commitments to the people of Nicaragua to further advance social changes for the sake of national unity. We made certain concessions relating to what the masses have historically expected from their revolution.

We thus maintain these achievements with a revolutionary firmness, and if the Constitution is amended it would have to be to further socialize the revolution, which is what the majority wants:

—We will promote the workers' control and management of private, state-owned, or mixed enterprises to dismantle bureaucracy and inefficiency and to fight every sign of social deterioration and backwardness.

—We will demand intervention in and the seizure of enterprises that gear their production toward speculation, such as in the case of the rice enterprises and the private threshing companies.

—We will increase agrarian reform to deliver excess land still held by large landowners to the peasants, who are combatants. Large farmland properties must be limited.

—We will demand that the media be among the workers' conquests and that it no longer be in the hands of economic groups that serve antipopular interests.

—Undoubtedly, we will demand that our Armed Forces faithfully maintain their national liberation ideology to face U.S. intervention.

—We will maintain the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] as a creation of the working class, and we will promote its ideological content as the cornerstone of new social relations in the area of production.

These are some of the banners that the revolution's basic forces are brandishing to accelerate the construction of a socialist society in Nicaragua.

4. We fully support the Esquipulas agreements and demand that the principle of simultaneity be faithfully complied with. In other words, we demand that the other Central American countries—particularly Honduras—expel the mercenary forces from their territories and abstain from lending their territories for mock Nicaraguan invasion exercises by Yankee troops. We demand that the Reagan administration recognize the peace agreements by suspending its request for $270 million or more for the mercenary forces. Without this principle of simultaneity there can be no peace in Central America.

5. We also back the Esquipulas agreements because they permit better conditions enabling the exploited and oppressed of the rest of Central America to gain more political freedom for the revolutionary struggle for social change.

6. Finally, we urge the people to keep weapons in hand and to remain active in the battle trenches. This call is especially made to the youths who have served in the active military service. We urge them to keep their fighting spirit as they join production tasks and the EPS military reserve ranks.

Let us remain active in military defense and production!

Let us progress in making social changes on the path to socialism!

Free fatherland or death!

Managua, Free Nicaragua, 30 November 1987

Lucio Jimenez

CST Secretary General

Edgardo Garcia

ATC Secretary General

Gustavo Porras

FETSALUD Secretary General

Guillermo Martinez

ANDEN Secretary General

Lily Soto

UPN Secretary General

Jose Angel Bermudez

UNE Secretary General

Officer Says 4,500 Contra Casualties Jan-Oct

PA062100 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Report by Chito Flores in Matagalpa]

[Text] Colonel Hugo Torres Jimenez, chief of the EPS Political Directorate, this morning reported that the Somozist mercenaries have suffered more than 4,500 casualties between January and October. He disclosed this during the second evaluation assembly of the 19 July Sandinist Youth members who are in the Sandinist Armed Forces. The meeting was held in Matagalpa, 130 km north of Managua.

The Sandinist officer said that the casualty figures do not include the mercenaries who have given up their weapons, those wounded, and those captured in the fighting. He added that there are currently between 5,000-5,500 mercenaries in the areas where there is fighting. In Region 6 there are 1,000-1,700 mercenaries. Col Torres Jimenez said that in their desperation to make people believe they are strong the mercenaries are using 13- to 15-year-old boys whom they have kidnapped and taken to Honduras, where they are then trained for war.

Col Torres Jimenez said that the casualties inflicted on the enemy this year are higher than those in 1985 and 1986.

Defense Ministry on 5 Nov-5 Dec Fighting

PA061335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2235 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Managua, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A total of 513 people were killed as a result of fighting over a 1-month period during which air transport missions and bombings intensified, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today.

The source noted that from 5 November to 5 December the Sandinist troops inflicted hundreds of casualties, including 44 dead, on the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

The Defense Ministry acknowledged that during this month of war 143 soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army and 26 civilians were killed as a result of rebel incursions against civilian targets.

During the past month there was an average of 10 clashes daily with a toll of 27 dead per day, according to the official report.

The "contras" staged a total of 49 actions against cooperatives, settlements, townships, and private vehicles, sabotaged power and telephone lines, and carried out kidnappings, the source added.

These anti-Sandinist incursions left a toll of 172 civilian casualties, including 26 dead, 65 wounded, and 81 kidnapped, the Defense Ministry reported.

The military report specified that during the aforementioned period the U.S. Air Force violated Nicaraguan territory on 11 occasions using U-21, RC-135, EC-130, and U-2 aircraft for radioelectronic and photographic reconnaissance missions, reflecting an increase in this type of activity.

Aircraft of all types, particularly flying in from Honduras, violated national air space on 82 occasions with the objective of conducting reconnaissance and logistical supply missions in support of the "contra" forces operating in the country's interior, the Defense Ministry reported.

It was noted that three "piranha" speedboats, which left Punta Condega, Honduras, attacked the El Maranonal observation post in the northwestern Chinandega Department with machinegun and mortar fire.

There were also three border attacks southeast of Jalapa, Nueva Segovia Department, and in Leymus, on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast, all of which "were part of a provocation to cause a conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua," the source explained.

This report was released this afternoon by the Nicaraguan Government shortly after the RN agreed to a unilateral cease-fire on the battlefronts beginning at 1200 hours on 7 December and ending at 2400 hours on 8 December. [passage omitted]

Paper Compares Daniel, Humberto Ortega Remarks
PA041440 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Nov 87 p 2

[Editorial: "A President Who Wants Peace, With a General Who Wants War"]

[Text] Our attention has been held during the past 3 days by the highly warmongering tone adopted by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega in face of the advancements achieved in complying with the Guatemala peace accords. His attitude has resulted in a kind of "disconcerting symphony" regarding recent statements made by President Daniel Ortega, his brother.

Naturally, a warmongering tone is expected from a general; however, it is evident that on two occasions during the past few days when General Ortega has referred to the Nicaraguan situation, he seems to have intended to openly show his disagreement with those who view the rebels as Nicaraguans who, once peace is achieved, should be allowed to join our national life and even participate in the country's political life, as President Daniel Ortega himself has said.

First, referring to reports published 3 days ago, the defense minister said those who believe that peace is near are mistaken, adding with a dramatic tone that on the contrary, "war is at its peak of violence at this time." On that occasion, Gen Ortega concluded his statement by demanding an intensification of "combative training," a phrase we all know means more and more people will be drafted and trained, and more time will be dedicated to military maneuvers and training.

In new statements on Thursday afternoon, Gen Ortega became even more arrogant, calling the rebels "parasites and monsters" with whom one cannot coexist. Using an interesting simile, he said that it is not a question of living with the coffee rust—a reference to the incurable blight of the coffee plants, which can be reduced but can never be totally eliminated.

In other words, in a contrast that cannot but be described as very significant, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has asked—perhaps a little conceitedly—that the rebels unconditionally surrender and join national life, beginning by sending delegates to the national dialogue, something that in fact would turn them into an authorized political party.

The rebels have replied they first want to see a democratized Nicaragua and then considered the possibility of laying down their weapons and returning to a civilized and free process for which they have fought and for which many of their comrades in arms have died.

Above all these voices, Gen Humberto Ortega has proclaimed that the contras must be totally exterminated as the only sure path to peace, and he has reported bombings and shellings that, he said, "have killed or wounded dozens of people."

Moreover, Gen Ortega has proclaimed that none of the youths who have already served 2 years in the Army should escape from military tasks, and he termed as "traitors" those who do not want to continue serving in the Armed Forces after they have finished their military service.

Gen Ortega's statements show he apparently cannot imagine the possibility of reconciliation with the enemy, as has always occurred in civil wars and as something that benefits nations that have experienced such wars. Instead, he only thinks about the extermination of the enemy and its eternal silence in graves.

Of course, since Gen Ortega is only a subordinate of the Nicaraguan president—who, by constitutional mandate, is in supreme command of the Armed Forces—we must view the defense minister's remarks as only the expression of combative determination without any political significance or decisionmaking capacity.

Nicaragua is currently experiencing a process of peace headed by the respected figure of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. President Daniel Ortega has been so fervently determined to achieve peace he has repeatedly requested a meeting with high-ranking U.S. Government officials to agree on peace, and he has also sponsored a national dialogue and a national reconciliation commission, which has been presented with deeply significant initiatives that might change the totalitarian regime initially planned by the Sandinist leaders, all for the good of harmony among Nicaraguans.

Therefore, we hope that Commander Humberto Ortega's words, which involve only destruction, devastation, and extermination, are only the result of a passing bellicose enthusiasm and will not hinder Nicaraguans' efforts for peace and coexistence.

Panama

Delvalle Calls AID Ouster 'Advisable'
PA051750 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Dec 87 pp A-1, A-18

[By Edmundo Dante Dolphy C.]

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle yesterday said that he thought it was advisable for AID to leave our country.

According to the Panamanian president, that U.S. office "is not doing anything here now. Therefore, we believe it is advisable they leave for the United States inasmuch as the loans have been canceled. [no closing quotation mark as published]

When commenting on the outlook for the national economy in 1988, the president said that if certain funds are channeled to Panama—particularly toward the private and state banks—to reactivate the construction industry, which actually played an important role in the 1986 economy, it will be a good year. On the other hand, it will take us longer to reactivate our economy, Delvalle said.

Eric Arturo Delvalle said that in spite of all the problems the economy has been growing this year at "a little over 2.5 percent up to the last quarter, which is very good in view of the problems affecting the country."

The president made the statements yesterday while visiting the *Western Anchorage*, a ship that will shortly begin oil exploration in the Gulf of Panama.

Cabrera Comments

PA041500 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Dec 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera has announced that the Japan International Economic Cooperation Agency (JUICA) will set up economic and technical assistance programs in our country to support our national development.

The acting foreign minister explained that the Panamanian and Japanese Governments will soon sign an agreement to this effect. He added that negotiations with good possibilities are under way with industrialized countries from Europe, Asia, and the Americas, who have offered their assistance to our country.

Cabrera said the decision to repatriate 48 high-ranking officials from AID and their presence in Panama has no "justification." [sentence as published]

In a report before the national Assembly Cabrera emphasized that when AID suspended all of its programs there was "no work" to be done. He said the salaries the Panamanian and U.S. people were paying were, therefore, "not justified."

In 1962 Panama and the United States signed an economic and technical assistance agreement through AID, and approximately $800 million has since been channeled in loans and donations.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries are experiencing very difficult moments following the antigovernment protests which the Panamanian Government says are encouraged by several U.S. diplomats.

Sixty days ago the United States unilaterally suspended economic and military assistance to the Panamanian Government. The assistance—channeled through AID—was estimated in 1987 at some 60 million balboas, but this is "ridiculously low" as compared to the GNP.

Esquivel Comments on Liberal Party Rift

PA041400 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1244 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Statement by Roderick Esquivel, vice president of Panama and president of the Liberal Party, from the "Open Microphone" program]

[Excerpt] We are here primarily because we want to clarify some things and try to rid the Liberal Party of the effects of having been linked to UNADE [National Democratic Union]. The Liberal Party's National Directorate decided that the party would no longer be a UNADE member because the latter had not complied with the electoral agreements with our party and the government platform. UNADE had embraced a number of government [words indistinct] incompatible with liberalism. This has brought about a number of problems for us, which we are willing to tackle wherever it is necessary. One of these problems is that efforts are being made to attack the party's legal status, to revoke our decision to withdraw. This is truly a useless and impossible task undertaken by those who think the Liberal Party is a party of privileges or that we, the Liberal Party leaders, are afraid of confronting the hard realities of this country. Our homeland's historic outcome as a democratic, worthy, progressive country is very much hinged on our party's decisions. Our party's decisions will determine whether or not we will continue to be a poor dictatorship headed for misery and violence as other Central American countries are.

A few days ago we heard a well-known Liberal Party member, who is also a former candidate from Cocle Province, make some remarks I will not discuss now. I do, however, want to clarify this: Professor Rosamerica de Vasquez' convocation for a convention in Penonome was canceled illegally and hastily last week. Now Targidio Bernal has announced a party in Penonome next Sunday. Let them hold it, but they will not hold a convention. This is completely illegal, and we have declared it void. Let them have their party. But the Liberal Party will record for posterity all those irregularities committed by political parties, particularly UNADE. Those irregularities have nothing to do with the efforts we must make to resolve this country's problems. Let them attend their party, Pompeii's last days, so to speak. But the party will not be able to function as a convention. We have declared it null and

void. Regardless of this party's outcome there is something positive, however. This type of activity serves as a sifter that will separate what we call the party's bugs from the true ideological leaders. In this way the Liberal Party will get rid of this dead weight and be able to forge ahead to protect the interests of the country and democracy and continue to be an important party for the country, a party of ideological decisions, as it has always been.

I hereby report to all the Liberal Party members and interested people that this so-called convention that will presumably be held in Penonome next Sunday is not a true convention. It is a party. Its effect will not be negative, but positive; because after the party is over we will know for sure who are the true leaders in the Liberal Party and who are not. Those who have failed, the embittered, the greedy for the material things the government has to offer, and those who want to keep enjoying them because they know this situation will last a short time will all be there at this party.

This is my message for the Liberals. Those who have come forth to defend the party and the country at this important moment will be those who will continue to be Liberal Party leaders on the streets, in daylight, in public places, as we have always done. Forward, Liberals. Keep your ears and eyes open so we will not be deceived in the future by these false, negative leaders. This is all I have to say. [passage omitted]

Chiari Elected President

PA062217 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2150 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Panama City, 6 Dec (DPA)—Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon today was elected new president of the Liberal Party [PL], ousting Roderick Esquivel, who is also vice president of the Republic.

Esquivel withdrew from the government 1 month ago because he disagrees with the policies of Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle. However, he has said he will not resign his post because he was elected vice president by the Panamanian people.

At that time Esquivel was even deprived of his office. Today, 200 out of the 310 delegates with a right to vote in the PL assembly elected Chiari by acclamation as party president. In addition, Chiari has obtained a personal victory and became the party's top leader.

The PL is one of the parties that formed a coalition 4 years ago to become the current ruling group. Chiari said that "the opposition to the government is a temporary one; it does not seek dialogue, but chaos." Chiari said that "the PL will continue moving ahead, in spite of the treason." Chiari has been mentioned in Panama as a possible presidential candidate for the May 1989 elections.

PRD Leader on 'Disagreements' With President

PA041326 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Romulo Escobar Bethancourt this afternoon said that his party has disagreements with the president but they do not represent a rupture. Escobar made the statement following a meeting of the organizing committee of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Congress, during which all members of the CEN [National Executive Committee] must place their positions at the disposal of the congress.

[Begin Escobar recording] The disagreements stem from differing views between our party and the president on such matters as the composition of a new cabinet and the directors of autonomous institutions. That is to say, we do not regard this as a rupture between the president and our party but as differences of opinion regarding the way changes must be made—if we indeed make them. [end recording]

When asked if he would resign if the congress so decides, he said:

[Begin Escobar recording] Well, we actually do not have to resign. The fact is, one of the matters raised over 1 year ago is that the primary issue after the party congress is installed is that all CEN members must place their positions at the disposal of the congress, which is the top party authority. [end recording]

Leadership Changes Reported

PA041530 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Dec 87 pp A-1, A-14

[Text] Three members of the National Executive Committee [CEN] of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) yesterday decided to place their posts at the disposal of the party. The decision was announced during a meeting of the top leadership of the party with the political front of the District of Panama.

Alfredo Macharaviaya, Ramiro Vasquez Chambonet, and Carlos Ozores Typaldos decided to separate from the PRD, but this is subject to the decision of the party organization. Hirisnel Sucre and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt remain in their posts.

In recent weeks some fronts and sectors of the PRD have asked for changes in the CEN through a national directorate on 15 December, while others propose a general congress be held in February or March.

The meetings and discussions within the strongest party of the Democratic National Union (UNADE) are taking place at a time when there are disagreements with President Eric Arturo Delvalle concerning cabinet changes. These disagreements cannot really be considered a break.

Argentina

Alfonsin Talks With Foreign Correspondents

PY052042 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Dec 87

[News conference by President Raul Alfonsin with foreign correspondents at the Olivos presidential residence in Buenos Aires—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Angel de la Vega] Angel de la Vega, (Stern) Network. Mr President, thank you very much for granting this news conference to foreign correspondents. You are the only person who can answer this question, a very direct question that many foreign and Argentine citizens might like to ask you if they were here talking with you.

The trial of the former commanders has had international repercussions. It was an example, both from the ethical and legal viewpoints, and an unprecedented action, except for the trial of the colonels in Greece.

Mr President, you are a staunch defender of human rights, you have received many awards for this position, and you have been the great promoter of laws such as the Full Stop Law and the Due Obedience law—which, as you know, has not pleased either side and which has had, so to speak, worrisome repercussions, like the present Astiz case. What are the circumstances that led you to promote the due obedience law, which—according to what you yourself have said—you dislike, a law that has only served to allow those who committed very serious crimes to act with impunity?

[Alfonsin] I thank you for your words and for the question, because it gives me a chance to once again clarify the issue, about which we have spoken on several occasions, both at home and abroad, because it has surfaced at all the news conferences we have hosted on our trips which, as you know, have been numerous.

In 1983 the Argentine people voted for a clear position that I promoted throughout the electoral campaign: that there would be no more impunity in Argentina. Three levels of responsibility were established. There are those who made the decisions, those who obeyed orders, and those who went beyond fulfilling of orders. This is contained in the draft bill that we submitted to Congress and which, as you said, has had unprecedented repercussions at the international level. Even the case of the Greek colonels is different. No Asian, African, American, or European country has been able to do what Argentine society did through its democratic government. We have placed most of the responsibility for the crimes that were committed on those who gave the orders and made the decisions. We feel proud to say that—as I told you—this is an unprecedented situation. It is obvious that just as we had to look into our human rights record of the past, we also have to preserve human rights now. No serious human rights violation charge can be leveled against the Argentina of today. We must also preserve human rights in the future.

I did not like the Due Obedience law, and I reiterate that. I believe, however, that it had to be sponsored, promoted, and approved, because we had to continue to preserve democracy, because democracy will allow the preservation of human rights in the future.

The Argentine people—you are well aware of this—did not engage in a violent revolution. They engaged in an election, which was organized by the Armed Forces, which at that time were governing the country. The Armed Forces called for the election, and our ticket emerged the victor. Our victory was not tied to any condition whatsoever. From the very beginning we have adopted the measures we deemed necessary, including measures we viewed as absolutely necessary for the preservation of human rights in Argentina.

Consequently, we have maintained absolute consistency with what we said during the electoral campaign and with the decision to begin a 100-year period—this is only a metaphor, because it will be forever—of democracy in Argentina, within the framework of a state of law and social reconciliation, in order to prevent confrontations that, given the current economic hardships, could cause situations that Argentines would want to bury and forget forever.

[(Marcelo Canselmi)] (Marcelo Canselmi), UPI. Good morning, Mr President. I would like to address the economic situation from two viewpoints. On the one hand, you have just set in motion a medium-term policy for reducing public spending, supervising expenditure reductions in state-run companies. I would like to know whether your government is willing to pay the high political cost that must be paid in order to go ahead with this policy, even if it implies a stoppage of 48 hours or more in state-run compaies. On the other hand Argentina, which has the third largest foreign debt in Latin America, a high inflation rate, and a high fiscal deficit, is facing an internal situation that is not totally clear in connection with the future of Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille. You voiced strong support for him during a recent news conference, but the UCR does not appear to have extended the same strong support to him. Is there any possibility for changes in this area?

[Alfonsin] Well, I will begin with the first part of your question, which deals with state-run company spending. I believe that state-run companies are inefficient, and if I am not wrong, about 51 percent of the fiscal deficit is caused by this sector. We are absolutely determined to go ahead with the restructuring process, and we have confidence that we will have the understanding of the labor sectors involved. I believe Argentine society demands more efficient services. There is also an economic need

to balance the accounts of the state, in order to curb inflation. We are determined to do this. I believe the creation of the holding [preceding word in English] of public enterprises is an absolutely positive step. We have improved it, and after we made it independent from the ministerial council, which was running it, the holding has had many more chances to work. The holding is now presided over by the public works minister and an executive vice president, who directly makes the appointments in the companies. All of us are accustomed to seeing the public enterprises resort to the Finance Secretariat whenever there is a deficit. We have decided to avoid this type of procedure as much as possible.

We are also transferring public companies to the private sector, and we have ended monopolies, which in simple language means that when the state cannot undertake some infrastructure work—as is the case now—the private sector is called upon to undertake it, above all, in the case of services and, in particular, in communications. In view of the debt owed by the state, we must try to let the private sector be involved in work involving the infrastructure.

This is our decision; we will go ahead, and we will try to prevent social turmoil. We have engaged in a dialogue. We want a dialogue with the interested labor sectors. New jobs will be created, and even the number of union members will increase as new areas of work are opened to the private sector.

Therefore, this is a problem that is no longer merely ideological in nature. The state needs vast funds to attend to health and education needs. It is thus obvious that we must increase the efficiency of the state, cutting the excessive expenses produced by inefficiency in some state-run companies.

As for the second part of your question, I would like to reiterate and reaffirm the government's decision to maintain its economic policy prepared by the current economic team. Of course, when dealing with a situation like ours—you must have observed this in different fields, and we are living through a difficult economic situation, a crisis situation, although some do not want to admit it—people talk about it and complaints are unavoidable. People still suppose that some problems can be solved by simply changing the team or by adopting a package of measures. This is like asking for magic solutions. We are going through a serious crisis caused by structural problems and by other types of problems that do not depend on the government, like the interest on the foreign debt, and the drop of prices on the international market. To believe that the crisis will be solved with a change of men or with any set of measures is absurd. A major effort is required of the entire Argentine people, and this is what we are asking for. We are trying to equitably distribute the burden. That is why we have sponsored draft bills that increase the tax burden, seeking to reduce the deficit and the inflationary tax paid by the lower income brackets.

Consequently, we are convinced that we must continue with this line. I understand that the entire country is complaining. I understand this. The UCR is part of the country, and the UCR supports the government action, absolutely. I would say that under current circumstances, in a difficult situation, the UCR national convention has expressed its solidarity with the government and has issued an essential chapter in its declaration, which unfortunately has not been disseminated as we wanted it to be, a chapter which definitively gives clear support to the economic guidelines we are implementing.

We know these economic guidelines are hard to comply with, but they are the conditions that must be met for our country to overcome the crisis and end this period of decay, so we can be sure we will build the type of country we know we can build with our human resources. We have a great advantage because the Argentine people have the virtues of several races, and we are a hard-working people without racial or religious problems. Throughout our history we have developed an educational system that can prepare our people for any undertaking. We also have natural resoruces.

But there are those situations that I have already mentioned. It is necessary to put an end to the excessive interest on the debt. It is necessary to put an end to protectionism, which is continually causing the terms of exchange to deteriorate.

At the same time, Argentines must make an effort. This is the time for making an effort, and this effort must be fairly distributed. Consequently, the state must become engaged, above all, with health, education, and security problems.

This is the course we must follow in order to give equal opportunities to all, and to show that democracy can give satisfactory answsers to the most pressing problems of the Argentine people.

Therefore, we are concentrating our efforts in the education and health sectors. In the nutrition sector, we want to guarantee that each Argentine will have the calories that he needs. We also want to make sure he will have free access to any educational level.

We cannot do much more than what we are already doing. We cannot meet the demands of other sectors whose education and health needs have already been attended to, despite the fact that such demands are just. But now we should concentrate on the essential requirements of social justice. This is what our government is trying to do, and this is the objective of the economic policy we are carrying out and of the people responsible for it.

[(Jean Pierre Dallois)] (Jean Pierre Dallois), AFP. Mr President, don't you think the Armed Forces' request that Astiz be promoted is a new way in which the Armed

Forces are demanding official recognition for their struggle against subversion, and that to grant this request would be equivalent to granting that recognition?

[Alfonsin] I think this is a matter we will have to resolve before the end of the year, sir. Of course, we will resolve it on the basis of respect for the law, which is the essential basis of a state of law. We will also take into account the need for developing the Armed Forces and the relations between the Armed Forces and Argentine society. [passage omitted]

[(Oleg Kolesnikov)] (Oleg Kolesnikov), TASS. Mr President, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to address foreign policy issues. [Words indistinct] and I believe this summit is possible not only thanks to Soviet-U.S. diplomatic efforts, but [words indistinct] effort of many other countries, among them Argentina and the members of the Group of Six. My question is as follows: In your capacity as one of the leaders of the Group of Six, what are your expectations regarding this summit? In your opinion, what guidelines should be followed in this new course that has been opened, and how could Argentina participate in this endeavor?

[Alfonsin] During the previous meeting in Iceland, when I was leaving Madrid to meet Mr Gorbachev in Moscow, journalists at the airport asked me for my opinion on the failure of the meeting. On that occasion I replied that I did not believe we could speak about a failure, because it was shown that it was possible to reach an agreement, and that the mere fact that the U.S. President had met with the CPSU general secretary was good news for mankind.

You will recall there was even the impression that a very important accord was reached during the summit. Later, during talks I held with Mr Gorbachev, I could confirm this impression. I believe it is an extraordinary piece of news for humanity that an agreement has been reached regarding medium-range missiles. And, I suppose, answering the other part of your question, that at this time a path is being opened for disarmament and an easing of tensions that will obviously lead us away from the risk of a nuclear holocaust and at the same time permit greater universal justice, because funds that are being used for armaments will be used to resolve many problems that are affecting the world in these days of development. Thus we are convinced that this is a very important step that should make humanity very happy.

As a representative of the Group of Six, I can say we have a modest task, of course, and it involves creating a climate for ending the arms race and its underlying philosophy, which I had the opportunity to talk about in Geneva at the Disarmament Conference. [passage omitted]

[(Oscar Serrat)] (Oscar Serrat), *Associated Press*. Mr President, at the recent Acapulco summit in which you participated, was the topic of Cuba's return to the inter-American system— which has been mentioned in reports but was not included in the final declaration— discussed? Also according to reports, the possiblity of transferring the OAS headquarters from the United States was discussed. I want to ask you, what is the Argentine Government's opinion on this?

[Alfonsin] In the first place, it is important to clarify that this mechanism of coordination is not intended to replace the OAS. On the contrary, we believe that the OAS is a privileged forum in which to discuss, within the region, the North-South dialogue. However, we also believe that it should be reformed. And, I believe that this type of regional organization should express and promote the region's political reality. This is why there have been talks about whether Cuba should be given access to the OAS. This is a task that will have to be undertaken by the foreign ministers, who will have to prepare a second presidential summit that will take place in 1988. In other words, at this time it is just a suggestion that has come up. But, I believe that it is a very interesting point. As for the second part of your question, I do not recall mention being made of the transfer of the OAS headquarters.

[Reporter's name indistinct] [Name indistinct], *Business Week*. Mr President, is Argentina negotiating the sale of nuclear goods and services to Iran after the bombardment of the Bushehr nuclear plant 2 weeks ago by the Iraqis? If the answer is positive, why doesn't Argentina adhere to the Western consensus to isolate Iran in the international arena?

[Alfonsin] All the sales we make in the area of nuclear technology are covered by the safeguards established by the IAEA. So, in that regard we are in the same position as other countries, thus preventing proliferation. Moreover, all Argentine sales are related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and we do not adopt any warlike attitudes. As for your other question, I can tell you that we are making progress in bilateral agreements with other Latin American countries, particularly with Brazil. We expect shortly to be able to formalize an agreement with Brazil on mutual safeguards regarding the use of nuclear energy. We agree on the need for avoiding proliferation, but we feel that vertical proliferation [nuclear arms stockpiling] is even more dangerous. We are always willing to work in the direction of peace, which is the direction pointed to by intelligence and ethics, as well. [passage omitted]

[Javier Rodriguez] Javier Rodriguez, *Prensa Latina*. Thank you very much, Mr President. I want to ask a question regarding the foreign debt problem, which was broadly discussed at the Acapulco summit, and which is obviously one of the Latin American countries' main concerns. After the important discussion among the eight countries in Acapulco, have some steps been taken by the creditors, or have there been some answers from the creditors conducive to more fair negotiations with Latin America?

[Alfonsin] We have just entered a process of communicating the resolutions to the creditors. So, it is premature to think about the possible consequences of the Acapulco declaration. Nevertheless, we are optimistic that the North has begun to understand the political nature of the debt problem and the joint responsibility for the debt issue. You should remember that at first most agreements on the debt were established on the basis of an interest rate of approximately 5 percent, a rate that eventually zoomed up to more than 20 percent. This escalation caused the rapid growth of the underdeveloped world's debt, particularly that of the Latin American countries. But what happens is that progress in the North's understanding does not keep pace with the urgency of our needs. And so we want to make known the real nature of the problem that the Latin American countries are facing. These countries, I repeat, not only suffer the foreign debt problem, but also the problem of deterioration in the terms of trade. This is what was discussed at the Acapulco conference. [passage omitted]

[Reporter's name indistinct] [Name indistinct], from the Hungarian press service. You are preparing for an important trip to Italy. What do you expect from this trip to Rome?

[Alfonsin] I believe this trip could be historic and important not only for Argentina but also for many other countries, because in my opinion subtantial aspects of a North-South dialogue will be set in motion, without rhetoric and in specific terms. An important association will emerge between Italy and Argentina that will make it possible to obtain soft credits that will be important for our development, and also to build a petrochemical complex and other projects in the area of communications. So, this trip will be very important. Furthermore, it will be possible to bring in investments guaranteed by the Italian Government. Therefore, I believe the trip will open really extraordinary possibilities. I further believe this should be the way that the nascent Latin American democracies feel the North's solidarity.

I recently reiterated in Acapulco and other places that we are grateful for everything that has been done regarding human rights, such as the creation of a commission of solidarity in this area. Solidarity has been late in coming because democracy in Latin America has experienced a decline and human rights are violated, so we need that solidarity. Democracies have been toppled because that solidarity was not forthcoming at the proper time. Italy has clearly stated its solidarity with Argentine democracy, and its willingness not only, as I have said, to grant credits, but to make investments, thus demostrating trust in our country, since Italy is a creditor country of Argentina. From the standpoint of the perception of the debt problem by the creditor countries, these countries must realize that what they should do is make it possible for us to increase our production—and Italy is doing this. And I believe this means a lot, because this attitude should be an example for other countries. Other countries should do the same thing because the problem is not just a problem for the South, but also a problem for the North. It has been established that for every million dollars the South spends to service the debt, 25 workers lose their jobs in the North. So this is a general problem and, furthermore, it is a problem that has to do with justice. Given the times in which we live, it seems to me that, above everything else, the governments that praise themselves for being democratic should think of ethics and justice, not with an outlook limited by borders, but with a universal outlook.

[Monica de Angeblia] Monica de Angeblia, *O Globo* of Brazil. Mr President, at the meeting, [name indistinct] presented a new proposal to maintain the interest rate at 4 percent, but other countries like Brazil and Mexico preferred to make a more general declaration without specifying a figure. I would like to know if you will continue with that proposal, or if you have other ideas.

[Alfonsin] I thank you for your question, because it gives me the chance to explain the situation. It looked like Argentina could not make its idea prevail, but this is not so. We went, as I said in the news conference before that meeting, with the idea that we must not pay more than 4 percent, because this is the historical interest rate, and this is the interest now charged in Japan or the FRG, for instance. But there are two ways of doing this. And the Acapulco declaration, on the one hand, fixes a limit on the debt, right? I mean a limit on interest, which we want to be fixed because the management of the economy in all our countries must be predictable. But, on the other hand, it is established that the debt must be considered in market terms, that is, the debtors must benefit from the prices the market is paying for these debts. The Argentine position is to limit the transfer abroad, which can be done either by limiting the interest rate to 4 percent or by slashing the principal according to market conditions. So, we have agreed on this position, which responds to the interests of the Latin American region and to the principles the Argentine Government upholds in this matter.

[(Maria Andena)] (Maria Andena), (*De la Trua*) of Paris. Mr President, I would like to know if you, from your position in the government, will advocate the candidacy of [Cordoba Province Governor] Angeloz.

[Alfonsin] No, absolutely not. I have not done so, nor would I think of doing so. It would be wrong on my part. Moreover, UCR people—who are more independent than you think—would express their disagreement. Also Governor Angeloz has personal attributes that would not allow him to accept being promoted like that.

[Maria Laura de Inolo] Maria Laura de Inolo, *The Sunday Times*. Mr President, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has recognized the existence of indirect contacts with Great Britain through the United States. I would like to know if, in the framework of these contacts, in which Minister Caputo says humanitarian aspects are

being discussed, plans are being laid for a trip to the islands by relatives of the Argentines who died in the war, and what is meant by the humanitarian aspects of those discussions.

[Alfonsin] I don't know anything about what you asked in the first part of your question. I can only say it is an application of humanitarian rights, and an expression of humanitarian rights linked to ecology and conservation.

[Rogelio Garcia Lupo] Rogelio Garcia Lupo, *El Nacional* of Caracas. Mr President, the release of a fugitive military intelligence agent from a Swiss prison has caused surprise, because he recently made statements before the Irangate commission in Washington. My question is this: Did some foreign government express to the Argentine Government its interest in the release of that intelligence agent?

[Alfonsin] No, sir. I can frankly tell you that the release has troubled me. The executive branch has done what it must regarding the extradition of that agent, but deplorably... [changes thought] We—thank God—have a separation of powers here, and a judge has ordered his release. Certainly, the judge has interpreted the law. [passage omitted].

[Reporter's name indistinct] [Name indistinct], *The Financial Times*. Mr President, I want to go back to the subject of the economy. Your government's economic policy has been based on a growth and development model directed at exports, particularly of industrial goods. Given the stock exchange crash this October and the uncertainty of the world's economic prospects for the next year, will you continue with the optimistic belief that there will not be a recession in the world economy? Conversely, do you have an alternative plan, or are you thinking of an alternative economic team for the next year?

[Alfonsin] We do not believe our problems will be solved in 1988. What we are seeking is participation in the world economy, with the conviction that over the long term, and even in the medium term, we will obtain good results. And we will continue seeking a participation by Argentina that will make it possible to fight inflation. But, obviously, we cannot be overly optimistic regarding the development of the world economy. The U.S. deficit is causing great concern, not only to the North, but to all of us, not only because that deficit could be covered with high interest that finally attracts the savings of the various countries of the North and the South, but because that deficit could bring an increase of protectionist measures that would cause serious problems to Japan, the FRG, and other European countries, which, in turn, as always happens, will raise their protectionist barriers against the developing countries, especially against those countries that need to export raw materials, whether agricultural commodities, like Argentina, or mining commodities, as in the case of other Latin American countries. That is why we are trying to strengthen inter-regional trade in Latin America, channeling inward thousands of millions of dollars that Latin Americans spend outside the region. This is easy to say, but difficult to do. This is the task we have given to the Argentine ambassador to ALADI. This task is also the concern of presidents and foreign ministers, who have met with the intention of working to that effect. So, this is the alternative we are seeking, but we think we can still continue to expand our manufacturing activities and develop our agriculture-based industry. To this end, we are willing to enter into associations with other countries, or enterprises from other countries, that will mediate the sale of those products in other markets. [passage omitted].

[Nora Franco] Nora Franco, Radio Sandino. Thank you very much, Mr President. You have just talked about the importance of the need for solidarity with democratic regimes. We know the good reception that has been given to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace plan for Central America. We would like to know your opinion regarding these mechanisms that President Daniel Ortega has set in motion in connection with the Esquipulas II plan, and also regarding the plan that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have presented, which several international observers consider to have been dictated by the Reagan administration. Finally, given the Latin American—and particularly the Central American—governments' efforts, in spite of the political cost they entail, how do you assess the attitude of President Reagan who, as though disregarding the Central American effort, continues to ask support and funds from the U.S. Congress for the counterrevolutionaries?

[Alfonsin] The Argentine position on the Central American problem is well and widely known. As the Argentine president, I had the opportunity to state that position once again at the Acapulco summit. And we were fortunate to hear the report of the Uruguayan president, who had just toured the countries of the region. I believe we are making an extraordinary effort, and there is hope on the horizon. Of course, as you said so well, it is not simply a Nicaraguan problem, because there are other countries that are facing extremely serious problems in that region. This is the case with El Salvador, which is facing problems on both sides, right? This is a really delicate situation. I believe the Nicaraguan Government is making a big effort. It is very clear, and I have read the newspapers with strong opposition headlines. So the Nicaraguan effort in that field is plain to see. I believe Nicaragua is moving toward a pluralistic system, and we hope the move in that direction continues. Of course, I believe any support for military forces of any kind in that region is not good for the search for peace. [passage omitted]

[Reporter's name and affiliation indistinct] How would you characterize relations between the United States and Argentina at this time, and what feelings do you have about U.S. arms sales to Argentina? Are you interested in these sales? Are the Argentine Armed Forces interested?

[Alfonsin] I believe that relations with the United States are mature. We know that common interests exist, that there are different interests, and that there are even interests on which we do not agree. I feel that there has been a significant change, because it has been observed that the U.S. Government does not now believe that continental security is linked to authoritarian governments. That agreement with authoritarian governments has come to an end and on several occasions it has clearly demonstrated its desire to support democracies. So this has been quite significant, in my opinion, for the Latin American democracies' relations with the United States. As for arms sales, an issue with which the president should not be involved publicly, we hope that the needs of the Argentine Armed Forces will be taken into account.

[Reporter's name and affiliation indistinct] How do Argentina's current relations with Chile and Paraguay stand?

[Alfonsin] Argentina's relations are of a diplomatic nature between countries that have not severed relations.

[Same reporter] My question, Mr President, was aimed at the fact that those two countries are South American dictatorships, as opposed to other countries ruled by democratic governments. My question refers to relations with Paraguay and Chile concerning human rights issues.

[Alfonsin] They are just as I have told you. [passage omitted]

[Marcelo Ojeda] Marcelo Ojeda, (Televisa) of Mexico. Mr President, I would first like to know if some issues remained pending in Acapulco. Second, were possible measures for future adoption analyzed in the event there are no answers forthcoming to the group's request? And in this case, what would Argentina suggest?

[Alfonsin] Well, pending issues exist, of course. This was the first meeting of presidents, who are interested in institutionalizing in some way this mechanism of political coordination. Consiquently, this will continue to be developed. I have mentioned cultural aspects. There is something that I like to talk about when I get together with Latin Americans: the possibility of implementing a law on integration, both in the public and the private areas. The Latin American Parliament might be given more power of representation. Then there is the possibility of strengthening regional organizations such as the OAS, SELA, etc. A rich field is awaiting our decision to yield fruits. So, regarding this part of your question, I say yes, and joint efforts are welcome. As for the specific measures we might take, it will demand a mechanism of permanent consultation. And we will see how things develop to determine any measure that might be called for. What we established in Acapulco is the fact that all countries must be in solidarity with those who might suffer as a result of the positions they take. [passage omitted]

[Eugenio Echeverria Frias] Eugenio Echeverria Frias, *Oiga* magazine of Peru. Mr President, world public opinion has been shaken by events that are taking place in Haiti. Some fellow journalists have referred to these events as genocide with impunity. The Haitian people were terrorized by armed bands in uniform when they tried to exercise the democratic right to vote. Mr President, I would like to know if the Argentine Government, through appropriate channels, will issue a declaration on those events.

[Alfonsin] No doubt, sir, and I thank you for your question. The fact that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo is out of the country is the only reason we have not made a statement in that regard. If you will allow me, I will make a statement here: I add my expression of indignation over the events that are occurring in Haiti.

Well, I thank you for your kindness in attending this news conference. Good-bye.

Correction to CGT Criticism of Government

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Government Position Criticized," published in the 2 December Latin America *Daily Report*, page 32, column one, paragraph five, line three:

...the distortion of Argentina's drive for freedom and integration. ((new graf)) The CGT added that... (changing word "integrity" to "integration")

Brazil

Chamber of Deputies Approves Software Bill

PY070158 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Dec 87 p 36

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies, acting on an agreement among bloc leaders, yesterday approved the bill on the legal protection and marketing of software. After more than a year of debate, the bill was approved with two deletions: Paragraphs B and C of Article 10, which allowed software consumers to participate with the Special Secretariat for Information Science (SEI) in defining the classification of similarity. The consumers were the ones who lost with the deletions because now only the SEI will make the classifications. The amendment proposed by Senator Severo Gomes allowing the state company Cobra to participate in the software market with the private companies was maintained.

The approval of the bill in Congress was received with some relief by the Science and Technology Ministry because the software law is one of the victories needed by Brazil to sign a favorable agreement with the U.S. Government in the area of data processing. President Jose Sarney will promulgate the law in the next few days. With this law, the country will have legislation for the software sector and will also comply with a U.S. request.

The bill mantains market restrictions for the software sector. Despite that, it is considered even by SEI Secretary Jose Ezil Veiga Rocha to be more flexible than the SEI regulations. This is one of the reasons it is considered an important factor in the negotiations with the U.S. Government, because it eliminates red tape for the entrance of foreign software.

Deputy Aldo Arantes, who spoke for the PC do B leadership, said the bill represents submission by the Brazilian Government to U.S. pressures "because it opens the doors to flexibility, thus weakening the functions of the SEI." This is why he voted against the bill. He emphasized that the opening would not work "because the international software market is valued at $70 billion." The PT and the PDT [Democratic Workers Party] also voted against the bill.

Deputy Amaral Neto, leader of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], approved the bill on the following condition: that Senator Roberto Campos (PDS, Mato Grosso) participate in the regulation of the software law, which has to be done jointly with the SEI and the president's legal advisers. Congressmen of other parties also showed interest in participating in the regulation of the law.

The amendment proposed by Severo Gomes, which caused great consternation in the Senate because it was approved without a debate of its contents by the bloc leaders, will be included in the law to be promulgated by President Jose Sarney. Despite the protest in the Senate that it is inconsistent for a state enterprise, which gets benefits from the government, to participate in the software market under the same conditions as private enterprises, the issue was not discussed during yesterday's session in the chamber.

The two paragraphs benefiting consumers that were deleted from the bill contained amendments proposed by Senator Roberto Campos. Campos said consumers should not be "suckers or guinea pigs" of the SEI. He said this is why he had to have some role in the process. However, their participation was vetoed in the chamber. Therefore, the conditions of similarity set forth in Article 10 were reduced from six to four.

Constitution Draft Amendments To Be Allowed

PY042355 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 87 p 1

[Excerpts] The so-called Centrao Group [made up of moderate representatives of seven parties, and commanding 340 votes in the Constituent Assembly plenum] has defeated the PMDB leadership and the leftist parties by approving yesterday through a 290-to-16 vote, with 3 abstentions, a proposal submitted by Deputy Carlos Alves, PMDB from Sao Paulo, to change the internal rules of the Constituent Assembly. The approved proposal will allow Constituent Assembly delegates to present new amendments to the draft constitution that was approved by the Constituent Assembly Systematization Commission for voting by the Constituent Assembly plenum. However, the current rules of the Constituent Assembly remain in force, and next Tuesday, 8 December, the plenum will discuss a proposal by Constituent Assembly President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes (PMDB of Sao Paulo) to change some points in the Centrao Group proposal. The Guimaraes proposal will come to a vote on Wednesday, 9 December. [passage omitted]

Cardoso Alves and Gastone Righi (Brazilian Labor Party, PTB, of Sao Paulo), both members of the Centrao Group, said President Jose Sarney congratulated them when they reported to the Planalto Palace that the group's proposal had passed. The president told them: "You have created a new country. Brazil is now breathing a sigh of relief."

Chile

Pinochet Cited on Carreno Kidnapping, Release

PY041826 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] President Pinochet has said that Lieutenant Colonel Carreno's kidnapping and subsequent release in a foreign country is a problem that must be thoroughly reviewed because the enemy is perfectly organized, receives money as well as weapons from abroad, and is supported by bad Chileans [Chilenos mal nacidos].

Speaking to some 10,000 people who met at the Metropolitan Municipal Amphitheater in response to a call made by the San Miguel Civic Action Committee, the head of state addressed Commander Carreno's case in a strong tone.

At the Metropolitan Municipal Amphitheater, the chief executive received massive support for his policy and for the upcoming plebiscite, support that was expressed by Carlos Cabello, the president of the San Miguel Civic Action Committee.

Pinochet strongly lashed out at the politicians who are seeking communist allies abroad. He spoke on the meaning of Commander Carreno's kidnapping.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Today, we received an officer who had been kidnapped. [applause]

This officer had been kidnapped and held for more than 90 days. However, this is not the end of the problem and [words indistinct] thoroughly reviewed.

What is the meaning of this kidnapping? First, this means that the enemy is perfectly organized, that it receives money from abroad, that it receives weapons from abroad, and that bad Chileans are supporting it [words indistinct] [end recording]

Speaking to the San Miguel community amid applause, the president of the Republic said that the [words indistinct] organization is attacking Chile and the Chilean people, threatening them.

[Begin Pinochet recording] A very serious fact is that they are perfectly organized. This organization, my friends, was created 3 years ago in Germany. Now, here in Chile [words indistinct] because there are always young people who are adventurous or who have other ideals [words indistinct] against Chile and the Chilean people. [end recording]

The chief executive hinted at a huge campaign that will be unleashed against our country, against him and his family, as a result of the plebiscite, for which a candidate must be nominated in the next few months.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Now then, we will soon be facing a transcendental situation. In early 1988, shortly before the plebiscite, a presidential candidate will be nominated and then our plebiscite will be held.

There will be a strong campaign against the government, especially against myself and my family, because this is the style of these swine. However, [words indistinct] and we will act [words indistinct] to the end without any other concern but [words indistinct] the fatherland. [end recording]

In conclusion, the chief executive asked the citizenry to assume their responsibility, to consolidate freedom, and not let themselves be carried away by communist doctrines.

Further Remarks on Case

PY051247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Santiago, 4 Dec (EFE)—Chilean head of state General Augusto Pinochet stated today that Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno did not fall in combat while being held and tortured for 91 days.

In a speech delivered at a luncheon held in a rural area 45 km west of Santiago, Pinochet stated that Carreno "was tortured, although his kidnappers deny that; a person can be tortured in many different ways."

Carreno himself, who was released in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 2 December, told the Brazilian daily *O Estado de Sao Paulo* that his kidnappers "never hit or tortured me. They never threatened to kill me."

Carreno added that his kidnappers made it clear that "if we were discovered we would all die. I was treated as a prisoner of war, as a Chilean Army officer."

The kidnapping was claimed by the "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" (FPMR). The Chilean regime thinks the FPMR is the armed branch of the PCCh.

Gen Pinochet stated: "These gentlemen are so well organized that they are capable of this type of operation. And they have money and weapons, with contacts abroad; that is, we are facing a South American terrorist organization, including Latin America. It is organized from Mexico downward."

The Chilean president called on the people to be "real defenders of our properties, because otherwise, we are going to become subordinate to the Soviet Union which is creating the empire of Peter the Great."

Pinochet added that in Chile the communists and Marxists are causing problems. "Some ambitious politicians are also resentful because the Armed Forces expelled them from power."

Information Ban Lifted

PY041623 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Ad hoc military prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva has lifted the information ban he issued in the Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno kidnapping case. The military prosecutor issued the ban on 21 September 1987, because he thought it would help the investigation.

Prosecutor Torres has reported that three people have been indicted in this case: university student Karin Eitel, Juan Carlos (Cansino), and Patricia (Cansino).

Prosecutor Torres also said he would go to the military hospital to visit Commander Carlos Carreno. The Army Public Relations Department has reported that Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno Barrera is receiving medical care at the military hospital. Torres said that Carreno's condition is being checked and that a medical report would be issued after the checkup.

Prosecutor Torres Silva made it clear that a court summons, not an indictment, has been issued for Catholic priest Alfredo Soiza.

The military prosecutor made these comments at a graduation ceremony for investigative police officers. He said that Father Soiza must go to the Military Prosecutor's Office today. He said that no other priests have been summoned to testify.

Torres said that you must understand that Father Soiza is a key man in this case; he must have had a number of contacts in order to achieve what the entire nation is now celebrating; namely, Carreno's return.

The Santiago Archbishopric issued a communique on the government order that Soiza, who is deputy vicar of eastern Santiago, not leave the country. Prosecutor Torres emphasized that the communique is the result of a lack of information because Soiza is a "key man in this case and is required by law to supply basic information."

Torres said he does not know how the case will turn out. He said he wants to talk to vicar Soiza before making any comments on a possible meeting between Soiza and Karin Eitel.

Kidnapping Suspect Questioned

PY042251 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Lawyer Jose Galiano has said he will submit a brief to Prosecutor Torres regarding a video program that was broadcast last night by Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network.

A question, sounding almost like a statement, was asked by security personnel to language student Karin Eitel, who has been under arrest and held incommunicado on charges of having participated in the kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno.

We can only hear the voice of a security agent, who says: Lawyer Galiano has cooperated in the activities you have carried out during the entire kidnapping. He was referring to activities carried out by Karin Eitel.

All this is part of an interrogation session Karin Eitel was subjected to, which was broadcast last night by Television Nacional de Chile as a special carried by the program entitled Temas, moderated by journalist (Mercedes Ducci).

The television special gives background details on the Carreno kidnapping case, and reports on the investigations that were carried out by security organizations. It states that shortly after midnight on 2 November, the National Intelligence Center [CNI] arrested Karin Alicia Eitel Villar on charges of being a member of the FPMR and that at the time of her arrest she was carrying false identity papers issued in the name of Vilma Ximena Fuentealba Helmers.

It adds that Karin Eitel acted as the FPMR spokesperson and that she was the person entrusted with relaying all the FPMR demands to the Carreno family.

This is how Karin Eitel's interrogation session, which was conducted by a security agent and broadcast last night as a so-called special by Television Nacional de Chile, began:

[Begin recording] [CNI agent] What is your full name?

[Eitel] Karin Alicia Eitel Villar.

[CNI agent] What is your political name?

[Eitel] Veronica.

[CNI agent] What was the name printed on the identity papers you were carrying at the time of your arrest?

[Eitel] Vilma Ximena Fuentealba Helmers.

[CNI agent] Who gave you these identity papers?

[Eitel] The papers were provided by a gentleman in downtown Santiago who forges documents; I had contacted this gentleman. [end recording].

Immediately afterward, Karin Eitel admitted that she has been an FPMR member since April or May 1986 and that she began carrying out political activities in 1986.

She said that at the university she had contacted a woman called Ximena who asked her if she wanted to cooperate with the FPMR. This person also put her in contact with her eventual FPMR boss, who is identified as Fernando. It is at this point that the CNI agent asks her:

[Begin recording] [CNI agent] What part did you play in the kidnapping of Lt Col Carlos Carreno?

[Eitel] My involvement in the kidnapping of Lt Col Carreno began on 4 September, when my boss asked me, that is, he ordered me, to help him place a call... [interrupted by CNI agent]

[CNI agent] What is your boss' name?

[Eitel] Fernando. He ordered me to place a phone call to Carreno's relatives to tell them that Carlos Carreno was in the hands of the FPMR and that we would communicate with them within the next 48 hours. [end recording]

According to the recording, which was broadcast as a so-called special, Karin Eitel said she had placed similar calls, and adds that her sisters were not aware of her activities.

In an incident that is not fully explained in the broadcast, Eitel said that after realizing that she was being followed by security organizations, she placed a phone call to lawyer Jose Galiano. She told him she was being followed, and on the following day she went to the lawyer's office.

[Begin recording] [Eitel] (?I went) to talk with lawyer Jose Galiano, and I told him what had happened the previous Friday, that is, I explained to him everything that had happened at the German Language Center, that I was being followed, and that I had been followed from the Language Center to his office.

[CNI agent] Repeat the lawyer's full name.

[Eitel] The lawyer's name is Jose Galiano (?Hirsch).

[CNI agent] Is he aware of your participation in the kidnapping?

[Eitel] Yes, he is aware of the calls.

[CNI agent] In other words, he has cooperated in the activities you carried out throughout the entire kidnapping case?

[Eitel] After the security problem [not further indentified] on the 29th, I had to tell him that I was caught (?while) placing a call.

[CNI agent] And from then on you were in permanent contact with lawyer Galiano?

[Eitel] Yes. [end recording]

That is the end of the questioning of Karin Eitel, who has been held incommunicado. This questioning session was broadcast last night by Television Nacional de Chile in a program called a special.

How will Karin Eitel's family react to all this? What will lawyer Jose Galiano have to say about it? We will soon know on Radio Chilena.

Ban on Mediator Lifted

PY051546 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0314 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Santiago, 4 Dec (EFE)—Argentine priest Alfredo Soiza Pineyro, who was interrogated today for 4 and 1/2 hours by the military prosecutor investigating the kidnapping of Colonel Carlos Carreno, announced that the ban against his leaving the country has now been lifted.

Regardless, Soiza says it will be some time before he travels to Buenos Aires on vacation to visit his relatives.

The priest said that he will now visit the released military officer, who was held in captivity for 91 days and is now undergoing a series of medical examinations at the Military Hospital.

The Argentine priest was prevented from leaving the country at the international airport when police told him that the Military Prosecutor's Office had issued an order and that he had been summoned to that office this afternoon to testify.

He talked for 4 and 1/2 hours with an assistant of the military prosecutor, Colonel Fernando Torres, about "unimportant topics," the priest said, when he left the Military Prosecutor's Office.

Soiza stated that he lamented the situation and the press attention that it received, because he thought that once Carreno was released his role would be over and he could return to anonymity.

The priest acted as mediator between the colonel's family and his kidnappers, the FPMR, which General Augusto Pinochet's government thinks is the armed branch of the PCCh.

In the name of the officer's family, the priest carried out the two demands that the kidnappers asked for in order to ensure Carreno's release: An FPMR communique was to be given to the media, and foods and household goods valued at $50,000 distributed to 13 poor areas of Santiago.

Six days later—on 2 December—the colonel was released safe and sound in Sao Paulo (Brazil), in front of the offices of a newspaper, and he arrived yesterday in Santiago.

New Group Calls for Unity of Opposition

PY020300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1624 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 1 Dec (EFE)—The "Service for Peace and Justice" (SERPAJ) [Servicio Paz y Justicia] organization has sent a letter to the main leaders of the Chilean opposition, stating that "the future victims of the struggle for democracy will not be attributed to the regime, but to you personally, because you have been unable to propose a joint solution."

Leaders of the SERPAJ today said they will stage hunger strikes if the Chilean opposition fails to unite by 10 December. On that date two SERPAJ leaders will begin an indefinite hunger strike.

The SERPAJ, a nongoverment organization that was founded by Nobel Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, recently sent a letter to the leaders of the opposition, urging them to unite under the slogan "Chile comes first."

In its letter, the SERPAJ told the political leaders: "You will be responsible for the lives of those who go on hunger strikes and the next victims of the struggle for democracy will not be the regime's responsibility, but yours, because you have been unable to propose a joint solution."

The letter added: "Chile needs you united, because the people still trust you."

The SERPAJ leaders remarked that "time is passing by and unity has not been achieved. Therefore, we want to tell you (leaders of the opposition political parties) that our people can wait no more."

The letter further stated: "You are responsible for providing Chile with a common platform for struggle against the dictatorial regime."

The SERPAJ letter to the political leaders added that two SERPAJ members will start an indefinite hunger strike "that will end when the opposition party leaders sign a document or an agreement for unity to overthrow the regime."

So far, the opposition parties that oppose General Augusto Pinochet's military regime include three major blocks: the United Left [IU], which is a coalition of Marxist parties; the Party for Democracy, PPD, (recently created); and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

The IU comprises the Communist Party, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the Socialist Party-Almeyda faction, and Radical Party dissidents.

The PPD, whose request for registration as a party will be decided upon within the next 10 days, is made up of the Nunez-led faction of the Socialist Party, the Popular Socialist Union, the Radical Party, the Social Democratic Party, the United Popular Action Movement, the Liberal Party, and the Republican Party.

The PDC did not join the new PPD in stating that it is planning to register as a single political party, without joining any coalitions. The PDC, however, does not rule out the possibility of joining a movement made up of the opposition parties in the future.

Youth leaders of 14 parties, including communists, democratic rightists and Christian democrats, created a group or command to support free elections 2 weeks ago, thus paving the way for the unity of the opposition.

Colombia

Drug Cartel Leaders Acquitted of Murder

PA1060434 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Bogota, 5 Dec (EFE)—Pablo Escobar, Evaristo Porras, and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, kingpins of the drug-trafficking "Medellin Cartel," were acquitted "due to insufficient evidence" of the murder of Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano, publisher of the Bogota newspaper *El Espectador*.

Judge Andres Montanez announced today that the trial against these renowned Colombian drug traffickers was suspended because the investigation had not uncovered sufficient evidence of their participation in the crime despite the fact that "one does not have to try too hard to learn where the order emanated" for the crime.

Cano was gunned down on 17 December 1986, in Bogota by paid killers who, according to the police, were acting on orders of the "Medellin Cartel."

Three of the men who directly participated in the crime, including the man who shot Cano, Alvaro Garcia Saldarriaga, died shortly later in fights or in shootouts with the police.

Only two accomplices of these assassins are under arrest while 10 more are being tried in absentia.

Escobar, Porras, and Rodriguez are also at large and are wanted in the United States for other crimes related to drug trafficking.

Rodriguez Gacha, alias "El Mexicano," is sought as the "mastermind" of the killing of former leftist presidential candidate Jaime Pardo Leal, killed in September near Bogota.

The U.S. Government labels Escobar the "number one" of the "Medellin Cartel," which controls more than 80 percent of the cocaine that enters the U.S. market.

El Espectador reported today that the acquittal of these three "cartel" kingpins leaves the Cano killing unpunished.

Sources close to the investigation said there is the belief that the "cartel" ordered the journalist's death due to his constant attacks against drug traffickers published in the newspaper. However, there is no proof of this because the drug mafia uses an organization similar to that of guerrilla groups.

There is never any direct contact between who gives the order for a killing and who carries it out.

According to General Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security, most of the drug traffickers' paid killers are youths who do not know the identity of those hiring them or that of their victims.

Medellin Cartel Leader Killed 4 Dec

PA0051959 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1635 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Medellin (Colombia) 5 Dec (EFE)—Rafael Cardona Salazar, regarded by U.S. authorities as the man who "carried out" many of the plans of the drug trafficking "Medellin Cartel," was killed last night in Medellin.

The authorities reported today that a group of unidentified men entered his luxury automobile dealership offices last night and shot him and his secretary Luz Estela Ospina, killing them both.

Cardona, 35 years old, and other chiefs of the "Cartel" Fabio Ochoa, and Pablo Escobar had been charged in the United States with killing pilot Barry Seal, a DEA informant.

According to the U.S. Government, Cardona was Jorge Luis Ochoa's right-hand man. Ochoa, second in the "Cartel" leadership, is currently under arrest in Bogota.

Cardona had been charged with supplying the weapons used to kill Seal. He was killed on 19 February 1986 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

According to the testimony by Max Mermelstein—one of the witneses in the trial against Colombian drug trafficker Carlos Lehder in Jacksonville, Florida—Cardona was a cocaine leader in the southern United States, and always had two grenades and a briefcase filled with a $1 million in cash under his car seat.

Peru

Economy Minister Examines Economic Outlook

PY031203 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
27 Nov 87 p E 1

[Text] The dollar exchange rate will follow the wholesale price index next year in order to support the export policy so the external sector can continue to grow, Economy Minister Gustavo Saberbein Chevalier told this newspaper yesterday.

How will the real exchange rate be maintained for exporters? Through bi-weekly minidevaluations or monthly devaluations? The way it will be done has not yet been decided.

All exports, both traditional and nontraditional, will be included, reducing the number of exchange rates to two or three.

Export sectors will be given preference on credits.

Speaking to this newspaper, the minister, looking relaxed and self-assured, stressed the positive aspects of the economy, but accepted with a smile the difficulties of the current unorthodox economic model, particularly in the external sector.

He emphasized the "resumption" of contacts with the international financial community.

Saberbein then defended the rate of growth, the rise in employment (8.7 percent in the manufacturing sector in the January-October period), the resumption of investments, and the "healthy" situation of the business and labor sectors.

The minister recognized that inflation is on the rise, that the balance of payments is showing a "worrisome" trend (losing nearly $500 million in the January-November period), that demand-fueled inflation is emerging in various productive sectors, that difficulties exist in confirming export and import letters of credit, that several exchange rates are being used to stimulate exports, that foreign exchange is needed, and that the expectations of producers and middlemen are pushing prices upward.

After announcing that the export sector will be given preference, the minister said the tax burden (currently 9 percent of the GDP) will be hiked 3 points in 1988. One point will come through the 4-point increase in general sales tax, 1 point will come from the elimination of tax exemptions from some productive sectors, and 1 point will come through better tax collection from new taxpayers whose ability to pay is being surveyed.

He justified the heavier tax burden by arguing that from August 1985 through August 1987 the Treasury lowered tax rates to allow business to recover its position and straighten out pending accounts. Now that the economy is growing, the time has come to raise taxes to their former level.

Saberbein denied the state sector is spending too much. Public spending now stands at 14 percent of the GDP, 4 percentage points less than under the previous constitutional regime.

He contended with assurance that the fiscal deficit now approaching 4.5 percent of the GDP is "manageable," and will remain so in 1988.

Showing statistical tables, he said that "the problem is low revenues, not rising expenditures."

On the positive side of the economic administration, the minister noted the important increase in capital goods imports, totaling nearly $800 million from January [no date as published] to 14 November. Of this, $491 million were imported by industry, $233 million were transport equipment imports, $43 million were imported by the agriculture sector, and $25 million were imported by the construction sector.

On the negative side, the minister pointed out the high inflation, which he expects to fight with "social discipline." The price index increase is approaching 6 percent this month.

The minister emphasized shock treatments such as price and salary freezes will not be employed. He admitted the circumstances in August 1985, when the country was "on the threshold of hyperinflation," were special. He added "emerging from a shock" was a difficult proposition. The current inflationary process proves this.

Asked what he means by "social discipline," the minister said inflation will be halted or reduced if it is attacked on all fronts, through this formula:

A) The state will increase the tax burden; B) The businessmen should adjust prices reasonably; C) The workers should accept salaries that allow production to increase.

He pointed to the following causes of inflation at this time: cost increases, changes in exchange rates, increase of public utilities rates, greater fiscal deficit, demand-fueled inflation in some industrial sectors where installed capacity is being used up, and the expectations of businessmen and workers to recover in a few months what they have lost over years.

Finally, he said consumption has surpassed production, resulting in maladjustments that are in the process of being corrected.

Minister Admits Issuance of Unbacked Money

PY031647 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Nov 87 p A 4

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Gustavo Saberbein yesterday admitted the Central Bank is printing money without backing, and said the government is responsible. He said the issuance of currency is "acceptable if it allows the dedollarization of the national economy."

He also admitted that national reserves have fallen in the last few months. He added that currently reserves total $1.6 billion. He also announced the government's intention to implement measures to encourage traditional and nontraditional exports in an effort to counteract the fall of national reserves.

He said: "It is now necessary to encourage exports because an agreement to solve the foreign debt problem is being formulated. The agreement includes partial payments in Peruvian manufactured products, forcing creditors to purchase our products for an equivalent amount." [sentence as published].

Saberbein made this statement at the conclusion of the Congressional Joint Budget Committee meeting where he discussed how to balance fiscal expenditures.

He said: "There was no excessive fiscal expenditure this year. There was a reduction of revenues ordered by the government to facilitate the reactivation of the economy, to encourage the creation of new jobs, and to gradually increase salaries."

Colombian Plane Picks Up Drugs in Tarapoto

PY031125 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Nov 87 p A 14

[By special correspondent Javier Ascue Sarmiento]

[Text] Tarapoto, 26 Nov—A Colombian light plane today landed at the Bellavista airport, 50 km from Tarapoto, where according to reports the plane picked up 80 bags containing approximately 1 ton of cocaine base, despite the presence of CORPAC [Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation] officials and passengers.

The sources reported that the plane with license No HX-339k landed at 0810 in the morning.

The crew had asked for permission to land because of alleged mechanical problems. However, once the plane landed, 20 persons emerged from bushes carrying the drug, which they hurriedly loaded on the plane, which then took off immediately. The plane departed barely 10 minutes after it had landed.

The CORPAC officials reported the event to the police, who arrived 30 minutes later, but could no longer do anything.

The same light plane was seen flying over Tarapoto at low altitude, passing over the Mariscal Caceres barracks, the headquarters of the political and military command of the emergency zone.

Bellavista Mayor Victor Manuel Muzarrieta has frequently reported to Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox many landings of Colombian light planes that pick up narcotics to take them abroad.

'Terrorists' Kill Priest in Ayacucho

PA032000 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] At 0755, Father Victor Acuna was shot to death by terrorists while he was officiating at a mass at Nuestra Senora de Magdalena Church in Ayacucho. Witnesses heard the priest say when he was shot: My God!

Four gunmen participated in the condemnable crime, which brings mourning to the Peruvian Catholic people. Meanwhile, the country's police continue on a 72-hour red alert in view of the possibility of new terrorist attacks by members of the Shining Path, who are commemorating the birthday of their leader, Abimael Guzman.

Venezuela

Soviet on Halting Arms Shipments to C.A.

PA031820 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Caracas, 1 Dec (AFP)—Georgiy Tarazevich, head of a delegation of the Supreme Soviet that is on an official visit to Venezuela, today said that the supply of conventional weapons to Central America by the United States and the Soviet Union should be gradually halted to achieve peace in the region.

At a news conference, Tarazevich said that the Soviet parliament has asked the U.S. and Soviet Governments to discontinue the shipment of weapons to the Central American countries, but "we have yet to receive a reply."

Nevertheless, the delegation chief stressed that "there is no Soviet military presence in Latin America, and the USSR does not have selfish—much less, militaristic—interests in Central America."

The Soviet legislative delegation is on a Latin American tour, which has already included visits to Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. It will end its tour in Peru.

Government Orders Austerity Measures
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[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi yesterday insisted—before the ministers—on the need to increase austerity measures, as the current administration has only 1 more year to go.

The announcement was made by Carlos Croes, minister of state and chief of the Central Information Office, who added that the president emphasized that resources be used for productive activities.

President Lusinchi also referred to the supply problem, and said that all markets should have sufficient staples to meet the people's needs.

An additional loan of 396 million bolivares for the Health Ministry was also approved yesterday during the Council of Ministers' meeting held at the Miraflores Palace. The Health Ministry will use the loan for countrywide hospital repairs and supplies.

Croes also said that the president had ordered the health minister to tour the hospitals in the country and make a general evaluation. As a result of this first analysis, the abovementioned loan was approved.

The cabinet also agreed to give the Acuario Building, which is in the Palo Verde residential district to the Simon Rodriguez University.